



Reasons to rise an hour early

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Touring the top temple fairs

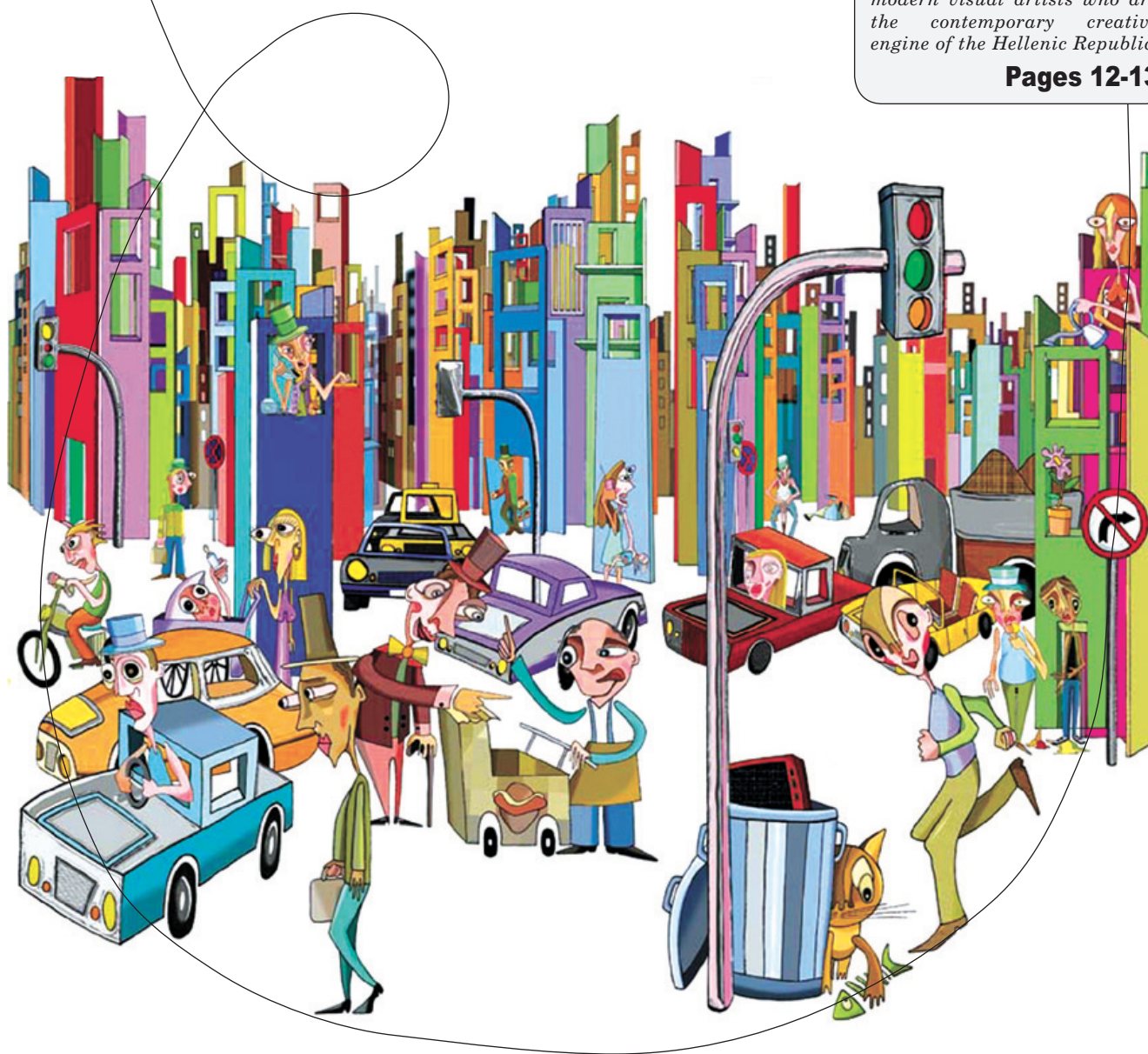
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Navigating the labyrinth of Greek Culture

Comics, illustrations, graphic design, street and video art and sculpture kick off the Culture Year of Greece in China. The exhibition, "Labyrinths," by Babel Comics, introduces top modern visual artists who are the contemporary creative engine of the Hellenic Republic.

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Candid cameraman beaten to death

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Burned workers leave only safety suspicions

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CCAA founder plants Bird's Nest

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Alternative sites to go antiquing

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Price rises temporarily under gov control

The government has temporarily intervened in the market to control prices on a range of daily necessities, such as grain and meat, and rein in inflationary pressure from Tuesday, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) announced Wednesday.

The prices of grain products, edible oil, pork, beef, mutton, milk, eggs and liquefied petro-

leum gas are being monitored and any rises will be subject to government approval.

Major producers need to obtain government approval before raising their prices; and major wholesalers are required to file a statement to government agencies if they raise prices by 6 percent within 10 days or by 10 percent within a month.

Officials expect the move

to ease concern about a surging consumer price index (CPI). "Since August, the CPI has been over 6 percent for five successive months. This influences the daily life of the low-income earners," Zhou Wangjun, a deputy director in the price department of the National Development Reform Commission (NDRC), said yesterday.

Dishonest business practices

have long plagued the market, and the NDRC hopes its regulations will help combat fraudulent sales.

An NDRC spokesman said retail prices of soybean oil, pork, beef and mutton climbed 58 percent, 43 percent, 46 percent and 51 percent respectively during the first two weeks of this year.

(Source: Agencies)

New meal guide for Chinese residents

By Jackie Zhang

The Ministry of Health released its 2007 Meal Guide for Chinese Residents Tuesday, which calls on people to balance their intake and get reasonable nourishment.

Unlike the last guide in 1997, the new guide recommends a specific quantity of snacks and at least 1.2 liters of water everyday.

It also recommends adults walk 6,000 steps per day and ingest 50 grams of coarse grain. It suggests eating less fried food, more light food and regular exercise can help prevent chronic diseases.

Many Chinese people lack various essential minerals, such as iron, Yang Xiaoguang, vice director of Chinese Nutrition Society, said. The rate of anemia is high. Some children and old people living in poor areas lack nutrition in general, but 20 percent of women and 15 percent of men have anemia because they are lacking iron specifically.

People are eating more and more fried food, and they absorb more fat but work less, Yang said. This has caused the rate of obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes to skyrocket.

The meal guide emphasizes these problems and offers suggestions for how people can change their dietary habits.

The report is available from the Ministry of Health's website in Chinese at moh.gov.cn/newshtml/20978.htm.

Shanghai rethinks maglev extension

By Huang Daohen

Shanghai authorities said Monday they would heed public opinion asking for more time to evaluate the proposed maglev train route through the city, the *China Youth Daily* reported.

During the past weekend, hundreds of students and residents from local communities expressed anxiety over the negative impact of the project, mainly environmental and security concerns.

"The maglev would be about 100 meters from my home," one protester with the alias Tao Bing told the Associate Press in Shanghai.

"We worry it would be like living beside a big microwave oven," he said. "My wife and I are delaying our plans for having a child until after this is resolved."

The Shanghai government gave no comment, but said its City Planning Administration's website had the number for a phone hotline and an e-mail address to gather residents' proposals and opinions.

A public notice was posted on the official website from December 29 to January 18 to keep the project's current process public.

According to the notice, the cross-river route would extend 31.8 kilometers from Longyang Station in the city's eastern Pudong New Area to the Hongqiao Comprehensive Transportation Hub.

An anonymous official from the city's planning administration told the Southern Metropolitan News they received many questions concerning the project and will coordinate with the environmental bureau to resolve problems.

"There is a possibility of making some adjustments," he said, adding that they would consider prolonging the current issuance time of the public notice to March.

Shanghai's German-developed maglev line uses powerful magnets to suspend the train above a track and propel it at speeds of up to 450 kilometers an hour. It is the world's only commercially operating maglev line.

The new path flanking the Huangpu River, is expected to connect the city's two airports: Hongqiao International Airport and Pudong International Airport.

Design of Beijing Olympic torch relay released



BOCOG unveiled its equipment and uniforms to be used in the torch relay Wednesday.

Photo by Jacky Wei

By Han Manman

The Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) unveiled the designs for the equipment and uniforms to be used in the torch relay Wednesday.

The images are crammed with Chinese elements, such as a phoenix pattern and lucky clouds. The design includes five parts: the torch, the relay uniforms, the convoy and chartered aircraft, the backdrop and the city's look.

"Blue and red dominate the backdrops for the Beijing Olympic torch relay. Those colors adapt well to the characteristics of different scenes, which we hope will help transmit the excitement of the torch relay," Qu Yingpu, spokesman for BOCOG's torch relay center, said.

The torch lantern design, released yesterday, was inspired by traditional Chinese lanterns used in royal palaces. The silver luster of the lantern coupled with glass serves as a foil to the flame and communicates the

flame's sanctity and purity, BOCOG said on its Website.

The torch holder's design borrows from architectural styles of the Han (206 BC-220 AD) and Tang (618-907 AD) dynasties, with lucky clouds drifting at the bottom.

The clouds were a key element in the design of the fire basin, which is in the shape of a *ding*, a vessel used to store meat in ancient China.

The 56 clouds hollowed out of the curved plate of the basin symbolize China's 56 ethnic groups. The base of the basin has four legs with eight faces, symbolizing how the Games welcome people from all over the world.

The basin is 130 centimeters tall, which represents the torch's 130-day trip around the world. It is 29 centimeters wide because this is the 29th Olympiad. Its 112-centimeter height is symbolic of the 112 years since the first modern Olympic Games in 1896.

The design of the chartered aircraft highlights the message of the Beijing 2008 Olympic torch relay and the slogan "Light the Passion,

Share the Dream."

The uniforms for the Beijing Olympic torch relay include those for torchbearers, escort runners and staff members. As required by the IOC, white should be the basic color of the torchbearers' uniform. The basic elements of the escorts' uniforms are similar to those of the torchbearers, but the base color is blue.

The Olympic Flame will be lit in Olympia, Greece on March 25 and will reach Panathinaiko Stadium, site of the first modern Olympic Games, on March 30.

After the handover ceremony in the stadium, the Olympic Flame will arrive in Beijing on March 31. A ceremony will mark the arrival of the flame in China and the torch relay will commence.

The relay will be 137,000 kilometers long, the longest in Olympic history, and more than 22,000 torchbearers are involved. It will be carried to the summit of Mount Qomolangma, also known as Mount Everest, for the first time.

Brief news

Retirement pension raised

A Ministry of Finance spokesman said Wednesday it earmarked 14.9 billion yuan (about US \$2.1 billion) as a subsidy for underdeveloped areas to ensure retirees receive an increased pension from this month on.

Last year's top buzzwords

Ten buzzwords present in Chinese media last year were announced Tuesday by the State Monitoring and Research Center of Language Resources, Beijing Language and Culture University and China Media University: the 17th CPC National Congress, Chang'e I, the people's livelihood, the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong's reunification with the mainland, the rise in CPI (consumer price index), low-rent housing, Olympic torch bearer, fund holders, Sino-Japanese relations and global climate change.

Death for virgin-rape official

An official Wu Tianxi, 61, from Henan Province, was sentenced to death after being found guilty on six charges for his serial rape of as many as 20 virgin girls in two years.

(By Han Manman)

Man beaten to death by chengguan gang

By Li Fenghua

At least 100 chengguan, or city inspectors, are under police investigation and four have been detained following the deadly beating of a pedestrian last Monday in Tianmen, Hubei Province.

Wei Wenhua, a 41-year-old construction company executive, became the victim when he attempted to film a conflict between chengguan and Wanba residents in Tianmen.

Qi Zhengjun, under-secretary general of the city government and chief of the Tianmen Urban Administration Bureau, was fired as punishment for the incident, Wang Faliang, vice mayor of Tianmen city, announced at a Saturday press conference held in Wuhan by Tianmen government.

An autopsy will be conducted on the beaten man's body, and results will be announced later this week, Shen, a Tianmen government official who would give only her surname, said.

Chaos in retrospect

Last Monday in Wanba, a village on the outskirts of Tianmen, Hubei Province, Wei Wenhua witnessed a confrontation between chengguan and villagers protesting waste dumping near their homes. When Wei took out his phone to record the conflict, as many as 50 chengguan assaulted him and beat him for five minutes.

Wei was pronounced dead upon arrival at Tianmen



Family of Wei Wenhua, the victim, mourn the loss.

Photo provided by Chuntian Jinbao

Renmin Hospital.

He was the backbone of both his family and work place, Wang Shutang, a colleague who worked with Wei for 20 years, said. Wei was awarded a lot of prizes during his life.

After the incident, Wanba residents gathered in Tianmen with Wei's family and colleagues for a memorial. The group hung a scroll of mourning to commemorate Wei. The heavy-handed approach of the government employees aroused public pro-

tests against "Chengguan" and the culprits are required to be punished severely.

The chengguan system

The chengguan system was established 11 years ago in Beijing after the State Council approved the Administrative Sanction Law of the People's Republic of China.

Similar systems were set up all over the country. Chengguan responsibilities range from keeping the city clean to making sure vendors are properly licensed. While the system

has had some positive effects, chengguan are not government functionaries.

Replacing the system

The Tianmen incident triggered web debate over the drawbacks of the chengguan system.

Wang Lijing, a research fellow from Hubei Social Science Academy, said the system could be improved with stricter rules and restrictions on chengguan. They need to bear responsibility for consequences of how they enforce rules, he said.

Beijing is capital of China's childhood obesity problems

By Annie Wei

A generation ago, obesity would have been an unimaginable problem in many areas of the country.

But, as the economy has grown, so have children's waistlines.

According to a newly-released report by the Capital Institute of Pediatrics which began at the end of 2003, Beijing is home to 300,000 overweight and 230,000 obese children.

For the past 20 years, obesity in pre-school children has grown 500 percent for girls and 700 percent for boys, making Beijing

the forerunner of childhood obesity in the country, according to the report.

The study was based on research conducted on 24,000 children from ages 1 to 18.

Diseases such as cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and a fatty liver once only found chronically in adult populations is now common among teenagers.

The main factors responsible for childhood obesity were poor diet, lack of exercise, poor sleep and an abnormal birth weight, Jie Mi, director of the epidemiology

department of Capital Institute of Pediatrics, said.

The causes of a non-healthy lifestyle are complicated, Mi said. Some children are unaware of what is healthy, some have never had a healthy lifestyle and others abandon it due to school pressures.

"Western culture and affluence are responsible for many unhealthy eating habits, such as fast food, carbonated drinks and fried food," Mi said.

Many people eat too much meat and too few vegetables, fruits and fibers. Children spend more time watching TV, playing computers

and video games and travel by car rather than walk or exercise. Sleep quality is also heavily impacted by pressure to study.

Parents' awareness of their children's obesity is affected by their own education level, whether they themselves are obese or not, and the sex and age of their own children. Mi said educated parents who are not obese can better gauge their children's situation.

Local authorities are considering introducing BMI checks and weight management methods into schools to control the number of obese children.

Blogger gets revenge on her cheating hubby

By Huang Daohen

A blogger who committed suicide last month in Chaoyang district may have found revenge for her husband's unfaithfulness.

Both her husband and his mistress were pressured into resigning from their jobs this week.

Jiang Yan, 31, the blogger, was an office lady for a local company. When she found husband Wang Fei, four years her junior, was having an affair with his colleague, she decided to commit suicide two months from that day if the situation did not change.

During the two months leading up to that day, she blogged daily about how she felt and her last hopes for her unfaithful husband. However, during those months, Wang continued to see his mistress.

"Today I am posting my final picture in my blog. It is to mark my failure in both marriage and life - something I will never forget," Jiang wrote in her blog on December 26, right before posting photos of her husband with his mistress.

The next day, she made one final post where she wrote "Say Goodbye," and leaped from the 24th floor of her 30-story building.

A netizen found her blog after her death and posted excerpts on Tianya.com, a major Chinese web portal. The excerpts spread all over the Internet and were one of the hot debate topics of the week.

Most netizens condemned Wang, and using the clues and photos Jiang left behind, they quickly tracked down Wang, his mistress, their company, their phone numbers and their MSN Messenger accounts.

The company Wang worked for held a meeting Friday after learning what had happened and elected to suspend Wang and his mistress, a fellow staff member said.

Wang and the mistress soon turned in their resignations.

Beijing Today's call to Wang's family went unanswered, but Jiang's elder sister Jiang Ting was quoted by the *Beijing Morning Post* as saying that she would sue Wang for nonfeasance.

Jiang Ting began a blog as a memorial to her sister.

"She paid too much for her love and marriage, and worked to support her husband's education," she wrote in the blog.

Xia Xueruan, a scholar from Peking University, said Jiang's blog may have given notice of her plans, but it does not mean she really wanted to kill herself.

"It seems like a warning; she may have been looking to others for help. If someone had intervened, then this tragedy would not have happened," Xia said.

Statistics from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention show 287,000 commit suicide every year in China.

The Beijing suicide and prevention center launched a suicide prevention hotline in 2005, and anyone suffering from depression or considering suicide can call toll free at 800-8101117. The line is open 24 hours a day.

Free bus available on Financial Street

By Gan Tian

The Beijing Financial Street Community opened a free bus service for its area on Tuesday morning.

The bus, which runs 7:30-9 am and 4:30-7 pm on weekdays, travels along the Fuxingmen Subway Station, Chenghuangmiao, Season's Shopping Mall, Jinshujie Street, Wuding Hutong, Fengsheng Hutong and

Bicai Hutong, and then returns to the station.

The route covers almost all office buildings in the area.

The service is mainly to facilitate transportation for financial street's 80,000 office workers. The Beijing Public Transport Holdings said there are six pollution-free buses, each capable of carrying 70 passengers.



The free bus serves the area's office workers.

Photo by Jacky Wei

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S Korea fire triggers safety concerns for overseas workers

By Huang Daohen

The security, living and working conditions of Chinese migrant workers overseas are always a concern as the number has seen a rapid increase in recent years due to low cost. Statistics show that 3.75 million Chinese laborers are now working around the world.

However, last week's warehouse fire in South Korea, which killed 12 Chinese workers, has resurrected the issue of safety of China's overseas workers.



Firefighters battle a blaze at a refrigerated warehouse in the city of Icheon, 80 kilometers southeast of Seoul, last Monday.

Photo by Liu Ying

South Korea fire

Twelve Chinese citizens died and another was badly injured when a fire started last week in a nearly-completed cold storage warehouse in Icheon, south of Seoul, S Korea, and killed 40 workers, Xinhua reported.

Workers at the site were injecting urethane foam into the walls of the facility in the basement.

Most of the victims were wage earners, and many of them were migrants from China working in unsafe conditions. Police identified 39 of the 40 bodies using DNA tests.

After a week-long investigation, the South Korean police said Tuesday that the Icheon warehouse fire could be blamed on a lack of safety precautions.

The Gyeonggi Provincial Police Agency issued arrest warrants for three Korea 2000 logistics company officials for professional negligence.

Police said the company shut off its fire shutters, sprinklers and emergency alarms in the warehouse to speed up construction, so none were functioning when the fire started. The managers will be charged with violating fire safety laws.

President Hu JinTao expressed great concerns over the event and sent Vice-Foreign Minister Wang Yi as his special envoy to visit South Korea. "Many Chinese people come to South Korea for work and they contribute to the development of South Korea," Wang said.

The vice minister urged the South Korean government to take appropriate measures to deal with the casualties.

The ROK government said it had issued visas to 34 ethnic Koreans in China whose relatives were killed or injured in the Icheon fire.

Compensation not without controversy

The families of the victims said Monday that they had reached agreement on the compensation. Each will receive average compensation payments of 2 million yuan (US \$256,000) from the facility's owner, Seoul-based Yonhap News Agency.

Nevertheless, the news caused a controversy over the difference in death compensations home and abroad.

In China, the maximum compensation for a death caused by accident is 400,000 yuan, and for a miner, the amount averages 200,000 yuan – already high com-

pared to the past standards.

"If you want to die, die abroad, foreign workers' lives are worth more," netizens wrote.

Experts said the difference is due to different calculation standards. In China, the calculation of death compensation is based on the victim's income in the last year and multiplied by 20.

The international standard uses the deceased's estimated future income. The compensation is then multiplied by the number of the deceased's possible working years. The standard also takes into

account the current level of interest rates.

Though the international standard sounds more reasonable and considerate, there are practical obstacles to its implementation in China, Yang Tao, a commentator with the *Southern Metropolis Daily*, said.

China's overall economic level remains lower than developed countries, and if international standards are implemented by force, company owners may be unable to pay the large amount of compensation leaving empty promises, Yang said.

Migrant workers overseas



Chinese migrant workers on the streets in Beijing. The rapid increase of migrant workers draws wild concern.

Statistics from the labor export intermediary company show that China exported about 274,000 laborers from January to October last year. So far, there

are about 3.75 million Chinese laborers working in 160 countries and regions, not including undocumented workers.

Though conditions vary by country, most of the overseas workers were unhappy about their situations, according to a Chinese overseas labor survey conducted by the *Global Times*.

The workers chose to work abroad for the same reasons: to earn money for their families. Some chose to work holidays, which tired them easily and caused accidents.

Working conditions remain a major problem for overseas workers. The survey

found that most workers, especially daily wage earners and undocumented ones, worked in unsafe conditions, without contracts and without safety precautions.

Problems increase with rapid expansion. In some countries, illegal enterprises attempt to defraud and swindle workers out of their wages, branding their move as "international labor cooperation."

In addition to unsafe working conditions, migrant workers are also victims of terrorism.

In 2004, at least 14 Chinese workers were killed and 13 injured in terrorist attacks in Afghanistan.

Promoting the system

The government is making efforts to safeguard overseas workers' rights as more and more go overseas.

The Ministry of Commerce (MOF) set up a telephone hotline to provide information on overseas labor cooperation projects last year. Anyone who wants to go abroad and work can query the hotline about the validity of the enterprise, which

projects it runs and proper application procedures.

Related government departments, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are working to establish more effective mechanisms to ensure the safety and security of overseas workers.

Anti-terrorism experts, however, suggested that the most pressing task is to enhance security consciousness among

migrant workers, as well as international Chinese contractors.

"It is not up to the government alone to protect Chinese citizens overseas," Li Wei, a professor who works for the Centre for Anti-terrorism Research under the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, said.

(Agencies contributed to the story)



Firefighters extinguished the fire, but not before it extinguished 40 lives.

IC Photos

Gov allows banks to invest in insurers this week

Banking and insurance regulators will agree this week to allow banks to invest in insurers. Bank of Communications, HSBC's domestic partner, may be the first to win approval for such a move, people close to regulators said Tuesday.

Chinese banks, under pressure to rein in lending, have lobbied for years for the government to allow them to invest in the insurance sector to expand profits.

Two persons briefed on the situation told Reuters in Shang-

hai that the China Banking Regulatory Commission and China Insurance Regulatory Commission may sign the deal as early as Wednesday, and an official announcement would be made soon after.

Under the agreement, Chinese banks are allowed to invest in domestic life and property insurers, but will not be allowed to set up new insurers, the persons said.

The new policy is expected to boost the capital of China's many small- and mid-sized insurance

firms which compete with the top three life firms — China Life Insurance, Ping An Insurance Group and China Pacific Insurance.

The three control more than half of China's domestic life insurance market.

"Obviously, regulators do not want to see too many new insurance firms, but want banks to inject capital into existing small- or mid-sized insurers to help them to become stronger," one of the two persons said.

"This is not only good news

for banks, but also good for China's insurance system which may soon receive many capital injections from banks."

Insurance premiums in China increased 24 percent in 2007 to 700 billion yuan (US \$97 billion), Wei Yingning, vice chairman of the China Insurance Regulatory Commission, said Tuesday at a media briefing in Beijing.

That was well above the 14.4 percent rise in 2006 as the industry burgeons.

(Agencies)

Disney, China firms to buy stake in NBA China

By Huang Daohen

Four Chinese investment firms and Walt Disney are set to take an 11 percent stake in the National Basketball Association's Chinese subsidiary, a league spokesman said Monday.

Chinese investors will include the Bank of China, China Merchant Bank and Legend Holdings, as well as a firm owned by Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-Shing, according to a statement released by the NBA.

Investors will pay US \$253 million, giving NBA China a net value of US \$2.3 billion.

Timothy Chen, former Microsoft China CEO, will be CEO of the new company.

"NBA China will develop a wide range of businesses to expand its presence, including Internet, entertainment and new NBA franchise stores," Chen said.

Wedgwood presents British afternoon tea party

By Huang Daohen

Wedgwood China presented a British afternoon tea reception on Wednesday at the Titi-Carlton Hotel, sharing with its Chinese customers the British tea culture.

During the reception, Mrs Dawn Rayner, wife of the former British vice-consul in Hong Kong, was invited and explained the culture difference between British tea and Chinese tea.

"Since the 18th century, the British have been enjoying a traditional afternoon tea which has worldwide world fame," Rayner said.

She noted that traditional afternoon tea always consists of a selection of snacks, like dainty sandwiches, scones and pastry served with clotted cream and preserves. "This makes a difference from the Chinese tea," Rayner said.

Wedgwood, founded in 1759, is England's finest china company.

Top fur fair closed

By Han Manman

The 34th China Fur and Leather Products Fair will end this year's session in the China International Exhibition Center today.

Since its movement from Guangzhou to Beijing in 2000, the China Fur and Leather Products Fair, organized by the Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Foodstuffs Native Produce and Animal By-Products, has developed rapidly to promote the global fur trade.

Jaeger-LeCoultre opens first local boutique



Magdaleina Lam, managing director for China, Jaeger-LeCoultre (left), Jérôme Lambert, Jaeger-LeCoultre CEO (middle), Kong Wei, an actress, together presented the La Rose watches.

By He Jianwei

Jaeger-LeCoultre opened its first Beijing boutique on January 12 at the Seasons Place Shopping Center. The new location is the world's second largest boutique.

The boutique carries the

full range of collections by Jaeger-LeCoultre, including High Complications and jeweled watches. A master watchmaker from Switzerland is on site for the opening to demonstrate the savoir-faire and share his passion for high-

class watch making.

The company opened a boutique in Shanghai last month. "Currently, we will focus on China's two largest cities, Beijing and Shanghai," Jérôme Lambert, Jaeger-LeCoultre CEO, said.

"Jaeger-LeCoultre has 55 stores in China. We will open another five boutiques in the future. Shenyang is one of the cities under consideration," Lambert said.

Photo provided by Fleishman-Hillard

Beijing leads in nation's housing price drop

With the Olympics eight months away, Beijing has become the first city with a dramatic housing price drop.

Many real estate developers suggest the drop was caused by price competition from promotional sales before Spring Festival.

A report by the China Real Estate Index Research Institution said lots of buyers maintained a "wait and see" attitude, leading to a large decrease in trade volume. After several months of rising prices, a downward trend has started.

The report showed that since last September, the government has more actively adjusted housing prices, and the trade volume has since fallen dramatically.

Last December, housing prices fell 17 percent in Beijing compared with the previous month.

An earlier survey by the institution shows 53.6 percent of interviewees had a "wait and see" attitude to buying, with only 1.6 percent claiming they purchased houses as a short term investment.

Chinese Central Television (CCTV) reported that, by the end of last November, the average housing price in Beijing was 15,162 yuan per square meter. By the end of the year, it fell 19.67 percent to 12,180 yuan per square meter.

To promote sales, real estate developers have offered discounts on Audi cars to new buyers. A Haidian real estate project reduced its prices from 16,000-17,000 yuan per square meter to 13,000-14,000.

A company salesperson said that the money saved by the dis-

count could purchase an Audi.

There are lots of new real estate developments entering the market before Spring Festival, pressing the developers to offer greater discounts. Before Spring Festival, 34 new projects are expected to enter the market.

Beijing is not the only city with a great fluctuation on housing prices since the new year. During the first week of the year, the real estate trade volume in many major cities decreased, with housing prices in those cities shifting radically in a single week.

Three consecutive years of rising prices, however, have made prices too high for most buyers, despite recent adjustments. Many people are concerned there will be limited investment in Beijing after the Olympics and the drop

on housing prices reads like a warning sign.

Wang Haiping, deputy administrator of the Beijing Development and Reform Commission, said the pace of investment in Beijing would not slow after the Olympics. Four large projects — including transportation, water security, urban environment and infrastructure — will make a smooth transmission of fixed investments before and after the Olympics.

The city will not encounter the turning point from increasing to decreasing housing prices, and it was not true that during the last four weeks of 2007, housing prices were decreasing, but rather slowing down on their rise, Pan Shiyi, board chairman of Hong Kong-listed SOHO, said.

(Agencies)

New academician, a plagiarist?

By Huang Daohen

Xie Hua'an, the newly-elected academician of the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS), being suspected of plagiarism, triggered controversy over the integrity crisis of academicians and their selection system.

Xie, 67, is a researcher and president of the Fujian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (FAAS) and is famed for hybrid rice breeding.

After he was selected last December, two retired FAAS researchers and Xie's former fellow crewmen, protested that Xie was not qualified for such a title. Some of Xie's dissertations were false and copied from

others, they claimed.

According to Zhou Yi, one of the two protestors, Xie quoted from six statistical forms from other discourses in one of his main dissertations, without any mention or references to the original recourses.

The stats quoted constituted the core part of the paper, Zhou said. Later he discovered the original sources at the academy's library. "They are surprisingly similar," he said.

An editorial staff from China Rice Science, the most authoritative publication in the area, said it's plagiarism if the author does not specify

the source while quoting core data for his dissertation.

"The paper aside, some of his books also have problems," Zhou added.

He believes that The Shan-you 63 Breeding Theory and Practice, Xie's main work that brought him recognition, was not written by him.

According to Zhou, Xie may have been in attendance during the book's preparatory stage but he was not being honest when he signed his name as the first author of the book.

"More than ten people were involved in the writing of the book, but Xie took all

the credit."

The Chinese Academy of Science said this week that they had heeded the protest over Xie and an investigation had been conducted before making the final selection.

"The selection is strictly according to procedure, and Xie won two-thirds of the votes at the final," Ma Yang, who is in charge of the selection committee, said.

China founded the CAS in 1949 and the CAE in 1994. The organizations offer top honorary titles to scientists and technologists who have made outstanding contributions to the nation.

Expert view

China's existing academician system is still very young and improvements are needed in selection procedures, financial rewarding and age limits, Shen Guofang, vice president of the China Academy of Engineering (CAE), said.

In recent years, some academicians were criticized by the public for their behavior, and for attracting inappropriate interests from various entities.

There have been heated discussions lately on the efficiency of the academician system. The primary debates are largely focused on the selection procedures and financial rewarding for CAS and CAE academicians.

Shen said his academy will take the public's comments into consideration for improvements.

A stricter evaluation standard in the selection of academicians is a response to the social outcry for reform, Shen said.

The selection process has been tightened and their numbers reduced. The shrinking numbers are due to stricter evaluation standards. A new academician has to win two thirds of the votes now instead of the original one half and the public appraisal section has been enlarged for the first time.

Shen said he didn't believe state allowances for CAS and CAE academicians were unreasonable as some members of the general public claimed. However, he urged academicians not to participate in activities irrelevant to their academic focuses, particularly business activities.

Comment

Academic corruption

Academic bureaucratization has made it possible for government and academic leaders to become prolific authors of research papers.

If a person serves as an official, he or she can receive more academic resources and thus can achieve more "academic accomplishments." This results in academic bureaucratization and corruption.

— Hao Bolin,
an academician

Valuable contribution

We may doubt Xie Hua'an's theoretical level since he did not get a higher education. But we cannot deny his contribution. Xie is known as the father of Hybrid Rice. He fostered the new rice breed, Shanyou 63, and resolved hybrid rice's weak resistance to some fatal diseases.

After all, an academician is not just the sum of his papers.

— Guo Xiaohua,
commentator

Protect the holy land

Is the academician also doing the "copy thing?" I hope the authorities carry out a thorough investigation and guard the last holy place for science.

— Simon Zhang,
college student

Tragic tale of a whale

By Huang Daohen

The body of a giant sperm whale on a beach near Songxia Port in Changle, Fujian Province Tuesday, attracted hundreds of local curious spectators.

Spectators were busy shooting collective pictures. Some climbed on the back of the whale while others even tried to extract the teeth. However, the fun behavior drew criticism. "Having fun is not wrong, but please pay attention to your own image."

The giant sperm whale which measured 16 meters in length, 8.6 meters in diameter and weighed 20 tons, died after becoming stranded.

Plans call for it's carcass to be preserved for research and display.



Xinhua Photo

Divorce, a private affair

By Jackie Zhang

If it is necessary for newlyweds to announce their betrothal intent in front of a government department, is it also necessary for couples to follow the same procedure when they divorce? Recently, many people are talking about the regulation of asking couples to read a divorce statement in Beijing. Some of the public think it is a hurtful and a mentally-stressful act and the law should be removed.

Last month, Mao Jingwen (pseudonym) complained to Beijing Youth Daily that the working staff at the Civil Affairs Bureau,

Dongcheng District, asked him and his ex-wife to read a divorce statement. If they refused, the staff would not deal with their case. Mao said the regulation should be cancelled. "We all feel terrible about our divorce. It has increased our mental stress forcing us to read the statement," he said.

The Beijing Civil Affairs Bureau explained that the procedure of reading the statement cannot be canceled for either marriage or divorce. It is a legal act. According to the contents of the Beijing Interim Regulation on Marriage Registration, the couple must fill in and read the divorce applica-

tion statement.

Reports from the Renmin Daily state that Civil Affairs Bureaus in other districts carry out the regulatory procedure in different ways. In Xicheng and Dongcheng Districts, couples are required to read the statements out loud. But in Haidian, they only need to know what the statement is about and then sign their names.

Some share the same sentiments as Mao and think the government should cancel the step. But some people think it doesn't matter if the document is read aloud or not. "We will divorce no matter whether it's read it or not. It

has no influence on us," a woman who had just gotten her divorce certificate, said.

The issue is not only being discussed in Beijing, but in other cities in China, as well. In Nanchang, Jiangsu Province, couples are also asked to read the statement. But in Wuhan, Hubei Province, the government declared that the regulation would not be required.

Zhu Liyu, a professor from Renmin University, said that it was meaningless to read the divorce statement, nor did it have legal efficacy. "Marriage and divorce are different stories."

Comment

A farce

For happy occasions like marriage, I think people will be more than willing to read the required marriage statement. But divorce is nothing to be proud of. Most divorced couples need to be comforted. I think the government staff should even make attempts to redeem the marriage and not break up a

family. The act of reading out the divorce statement is a farce.

— munumoon

Private affairs should not be publicized

It is a private issue for a couple to divorce. No matter the reason, we should respect them. To read a divorce statement out loud is unreasonable. I've never heard of anyone needing to announce their

private affairs publicly.

— vivi_02

It makes no difference

It is only a procedure. I read the statement aloud when I got divorced from my husband. There was no special feeling when I did it. I think it is good to strengthen our legal consciousness.

— Zhang Yun

A necessary step

Sometimes one side does not agree to divorce but is forced to go to the governmental department. To read the statement gives them a chance to discuss their disagreement. I think it is necessary. Reading the statement is also a way to showcase the attitude of the couple.

— puppy orange

A Swiss introduces China to the world

By He Jianwei

The first contemporary art awards in China, the Chinese Contemporary Art Awards (CCAA), announced this year's winners on January 14. The Best Artist of Chinese Contemporary Art Award 2008 went to Liu Wei, the Best Young Artist was Tseng Yu-chin, and Ai Weiwei got the Lifetime Contribution Artist Award.

Uli Sigg, the founder of the CCAA, attended the awards press conference. The CCAA was established by this Swiss collector in 1997 to promote Chinese contemporary art internationally and build a bridge between the young artists and the international art world.

Studying China through art

Sigg learned of China's contemporary art scene in the late 1970s, when his friends gave him some photos.

In the 1980s, when he came to China, he had the opportunity to see the pieces and talk with the artists.

In 1995, the Swiss federal gov-

ernment appointed him to a four-year term as the ambassador to China. He then started to collect.

The first piece he bought was an oil painting. "I was excited when I saw the Chinese pieces, and I thought it was another way to study China," he said.

"The works deal with current issues in China, presenting the country's individual views on issues such as urbanization, destruction and the one-child policy," he said.

He has collected about 2,000 pieces to date. When he discovered that the Chinese contemporary artists were not recognized on the world stage, he decided to establish the CCAA.

The purpose of setting up the organization was to encourage Chinese artists who demonstrated originality and peculiar talents in artistic creation. By granting the awards, the association also aims at promoting knowledge about contemporary artists through their works, its publications and exhibitions that accompany the awards.

Since 1998, the CCAA has become an institution of significance for the Chinese art scene with the CCAA winners becoming well-recognized by the international art world.

His first joint venture

Sigg established the first joint venture between China and the West in 1980.

At the beginning of reform, nobody had experience in creating joint ventures with the West in China. Initially, the Chinese government contacted the Schindler Group hoping bilateral cooperation would develop China's elevator industry.

Sigg attended the negotiations with the Chinese government and was granted the contract, defeating the Japanese and US elevator companies.

He has been the vice chairman of the joint venture for 10 years. During these years, he has witnessed China's rapid economic development.

Bird's Nest thanks to Sigg

Sigg is the advisor on the National Stadium, or the Bird's



Uli Sigg

Photo provided by Imperial Connect

Nest, the main stadium of the Beijing Olympics.

He brought Swiss architects, Herzog & de Meuron, to Beijing and helped them build the unique stadium.

"I helped them win the project. I thought it was a very bold and beautiful sculpture when I first saw it," he said.

Sigg believes that this architectural wonder will become the most attractive building in the world.

Pavarotti's old pal in concert tonight

By Jackie Zhang

Jose Carreras, one of the three tenors, will perform in a solo concert at the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA). Since he arrived in Beijing last week, except for the media conference Tuesday, he hasn't attended any social activities.

In recent years, Carreras has been invited to China several times. The last time he sang here was the closing ceremony of the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai last year. The last time he came to Beijing was in 2005, when he took part in the New Year's Concert.

For his solo concert this time, Carreras flew to Beijing after he finished his concert at the Sydney Opera House. During the week after he arrived in Beijing, he visited NCPA, met some of his European friends and toured Beijing.

Although the weather in Beijing is cold now, it wouldn't have a big influence on his voice, he said. Carreras thinks that the tensility of his voice is not as nice as before since he is getting older; but his stage experience is getting richer.

At his solo concert tonight, Carreras will sing 17 classical tenor songs, including Italian lyric songs and opera episodes. He has also tried to improve his Chinese language. It is possible that he will sing a famous Chinese song, "In a Distant Land" ("Zai na yao yuan de di fang"), which he sang on his album *Passion* in 1999 and in his solo concert in 2005 in Beijing. The soprano Ye Baoping from Hong Kong was invited as the concert's guest to sing an episode of *The Merry Widow* with Carreras.

Regarding the theater in which he will sing tonight, Carreras expressed his satisfaction at the press conference Wednesday. "It is a grand and beautiful art center, as well as a multi-functional theater. I heard that the experimental theater inside will be open to the public in the future. It is an advantage for artistic development. The whole theater is elegant without exaggeration and glitz."

Carreras' memory of Luciano Pavarotti, who died last September, was another point about which people were concerned, since "three tenors" are now incomplete.

"Many of the songs I'll sing this time had been sung by Pavarotti before. So when I sing them, I'll naturally think of our friendship," he said.

"No one can take his place. The phrase 'three tenors' is meaningless now that he is gone. There might be a new 'three tenors' in the future organized by others. But we will never another to replace Luciano Pavarotti," he said.

Secret Supper spotlights body movement

By Han Manman

As a part of the Greek culture year, the SineQuaNon Dance Company, which was at the forefront of the contemporary dance movement that flourished in Greece in the mid 90s, will bring their *Secret Supper* to Beijing this evening at the Beijing Central Academy of Drama.

SineQuaNon dancers said their main source of inspiration in creating dance pieces is a fascination with the body in motion and how it interacts with space and time and with other moving bodies. "The way we move is influenced by con-

temporary dance techniques such as release, contact improvisation and methods based on the study of the anatomy of the human body," one of the dancer Kiki Baka said, adding that the dancers put particular emphasis on the body in motion.

Secret Supper is a 8-dancer, 5-musician dance piece that revolves around a table. While the table serves as a prop for the dancers to come into contact with each other, it is ultimately a source of energy, stimulating and organizing how the action flows around

it. The performance delves into concepts such as sacrifice, betrayal, male versus female, solitude, and angst yet the spectator remains free to interpret the work for himself and narrate his own 'story'.

SineQuaNon, whose members include some of the leading Greek dancers, has represented the country in major international events. *Secret Supper* is a work dating from 2004 and was first presented in Athens as part of the Athens 2004 Culture Paralympic Games' Programme.

SineQuaNon Dance Com-

pany was established in 1992 by graduates of the Hellenic State School of Dance. Back then the Greek dance scene was "somewhat stagnant", however, the emergence of SineQuaNon along with that of several other dance companies around the same time helped give a boost to contemporary dance in Greece.

SineQuaNon works as a collective with all the dancers providing creative input to the dance-making process and it is this collective modus operandi that gives SineQuaNon a special place in the Greek dance community.



SineQuaNon Dance Company



After finish the show in Beijing today, the Greek top dance group SineQuaNon will come to Shanghai.

Photos by Lila Sotiriou

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Your physician will determine the ideal treatment plan for your needs. Generally, treatment involves two to four sessions, at four-week intervals. Right after treatment you may feel a light tingling sensation. You may experience slight swelling for a day or two. As new skin replaces dead tissue, your skin will flake, a sign that healing is underway. Your skin will look better immediately, and will steadily improve over the next few months.

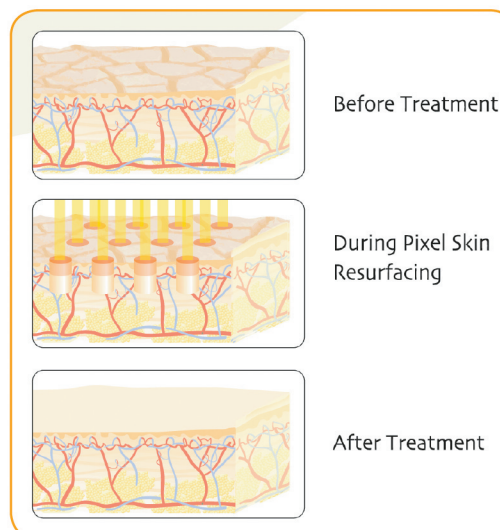


Does It Hurt?

Far more comfortable than conventional laser skin resurfacing, Pixel skin resurfacing is experienced by most patients as a comfortable sensation.

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Conceptual artist challenges logic

By He Jianwei

One of the leading figures of conceptual art, Lawrence Weiner, showcased a selection of short films, videos and books in the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art on January 11.

Entitled, *To Allow The Light*, the work is exemplary of Weiner's text-based artworks, which are presented on gallery and museum walls, in books and on posters, inviting the viewers to draw their own conclusions.

"Sharing is part of the work. Works begin to exist when they are received," Weiner said.

Weiner, 66, born in New York, worked in a variety of jobs after graduating from high school. He worked on an oil tanker, on docks and unloading railroad cars.

"Out of economic necessity, I could choose a safe job such as working at the 7-Eleven, but I prefer to live a romantic life doing physical work with the sea or a dog," he said.

When he got involved in the art world, he thought art was another means to get to know society. A turning point in Weiner's approach came in 1968, when he created a work for an outdoor exhibition organized by

Siegelaub at Windham College in Putney, Vermont.

Like other conceptual artists who gained international recognition in the late 60s and early 70s, he investigated forms of display and distribution that challenged traditional assumptions about the nature of a piece.

"I care about the relationship of humans and materials," he said.

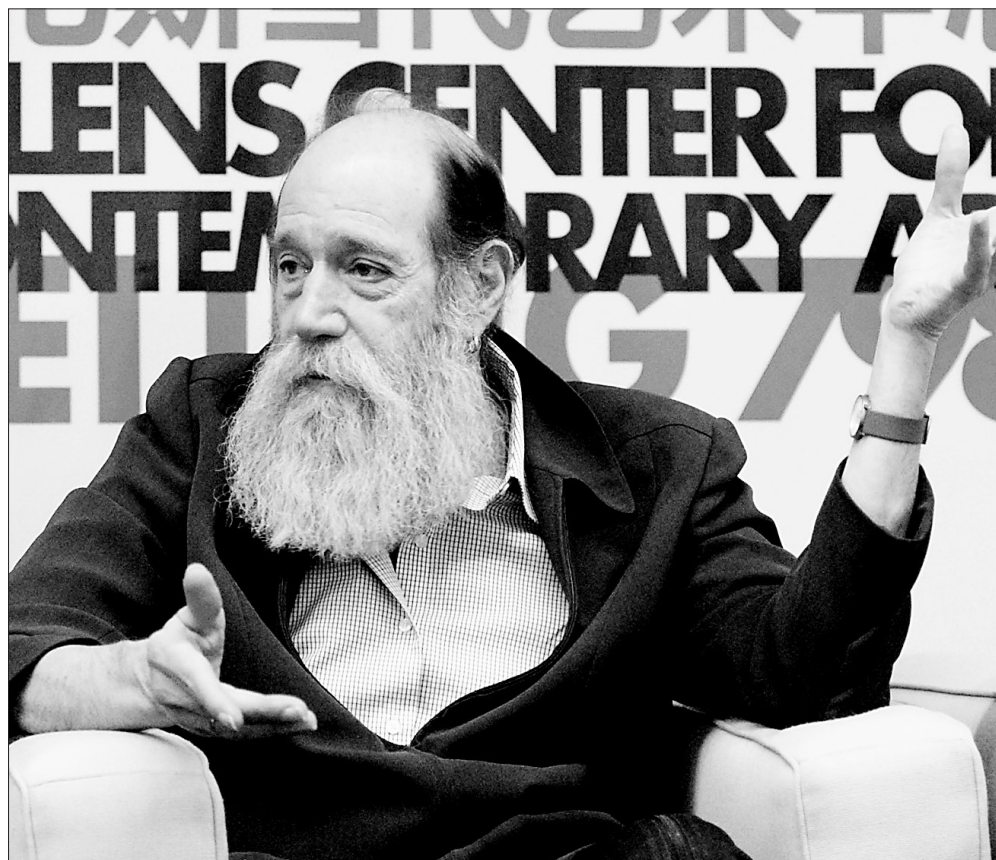
In Weiner's mind, reality is not satisfying. He prefers to discuss disharmony in the world and believes artistic works can change people's attitudes towards the relationship between humans and materials.

"Art is a kind of means of changing their logic," he said.

Since 1970, filmmaking has been central to Weiner's art practice. "The museum didn't satisfy me, so I tackled film, which is much more about the audience," he said.

He made short videos, feature-length films and digital animation pieces, through which the artist transmitted and transformed his language-based art practice.

Through this exhibition, Weiner hopes the Chinese viewers will rethink reality and reconsider the relationship between humans and objects.



Lawrence Weiner, conceptual artist

Photo by Left Lu

Paris nightlife comes to town

By Gan Tian

The dance show, *Paris Feather*, debuted at the Poly Theater last night to bring a glimpse of typical French nightlife to town.

The show's name suggests its story and lifestyle. In Paris, aristocratic ladies used feathers to decorate their clothes, and then were off to enjoy Paris nightclubs and champagne.

There are four acts in the dance show and it tells a different story. From jazz and Moulin Rouge to Greek myths and the Eiffel Tower, the beautiful ladies' legs won applause and screams from time to time.

There are 25 tall and slim dancers in the Paris Feather cast, and Ukrainian Kateryna Klymenko, in her 20s, is one of the lead dancers.

She and all the other girls in the cast are 178 centimeters tall.

Klymenko recalled her career history. Because of her good looks and height, she was chosen to work as a model when she was 18 years old. However, she developed an interest in dancing and joined the cast by accident.

She said she will stick with dance as long as she can. Klymenko has a moment in the show where she has to kick a hat off a male character's head. "It is an exaggerated move, but as a professional dancer, I can kick that high," she said.

Sarramona mentioned that most of the dancers in the show are between ages 18 and 32. "The audience loves to see young and pretty girls," she said. However, Klymenko joked that she will step back into her modeling career after she retires from this show.

There are various styles of dance in the show. "We have



One of the scenes from Paris Feather

Photo provided by Paris Feather Cast

modern dance, jazz, French Cancan and even some Chinese elements in the show," Sarramona said. There were many typical Beijing Opera poses and gestures in *Paris Feather*.

Sarramona said the nightlife in Paris was like this, "It is varied and very entertaining. People really enjoy themselves a lot in Paris."

The show will continue until Sunday.

Catalan writer on Barcelona

By Gan Tian

Spanish female writer and publisher Emili Rosales brought her book *The Invisible City* to Beijing for the first time, making a speech at Beijing Cervantes Institute on Wednesday evening.

The 40-year-old writer's book mixes present time with the eighteenth century, describing the great European city that Carlos III wanted to construct in the Ebro Delta region, which is now Barcelona.

Rosales mentioned she grew up in this city. When she was very young, she would like to play with her mates around the city and saw many relics there, which inspired her to write a story about them.

The writer admitted that many of the book's plot lines had really happened during historic times, so readers could use the book as a reference.

However, to spark interest, she added love, mystery and horror elements.

The translator Yin Chengdong mentioned that this is the first Catalan novel introduced and translated into Chinese.

He recommended highly Rosales's writing style. Yin has translated more than ten Spanish books to Chinese, and he marked this one the best.

Rosales started out as a literary director at Planeta's Catalan-Language Publications. Now she is among the best of the contemporary Catalan novelists. The *Invisible City* received the 1994 Sant Jordi Prize.

Cats starts Chinese Mouse Year

By Gan Tian

Webber's classical musical, *Cats*, will hit the city tomorrow, starting the city's musical Mouse Year.

The cast arrived in Beijing last Saturday. Director Stephen Morgante said there would be something different in his *Cats*. Most expected is that some Chinese lyrics will be added to the show. However, he did not say which song would be sung in Chinese. On the Guangzhou and Shenzhen tour, the most popular song, "Memory," was done in Chinese.

"It is not certain that this will be done in Beijing. Viewers will have to come to find out for themselves," he said.

Francesca Arena, Grizabella in the show, shared her experience of acting. She said the most difficult part for her was thinking of herself as a four-legged animal. She had to crouch on the ground every time she appeared onstage.

"Morgante is a great director. He helped us to develop a mood and made us feel like we were cats," she said.

Now Arena has fallen in love with the musical. Every morning when she wakes up, the first thing she does is scratch herself – like a cat. "I hope I can act in this musical for as long as possible – it is so good to be a cat!" she said.

Sharon Case, who is in charge of all the make-up and costumes



The cat people rehearsing.

Photo by Liu Ying

for the cast, talked about how to make a person look like a cat. "First their actions and behavior must resemble a cat, and the rest is our job," she said. Case had to

spend one hour making up each "cat," but, after doing it so many times she and her team now can pull off the magical transformation in about 30 minutes.

Where locals find vintage pieces

By Annie Wei/Wang Chuyang

It's not necessary to go all the way to Gaobeidian, east of the city, for a small piece of fake antique furniture. Many locals find consignment stores more convenient and reliable spots for good deals.

Consignment stores were quite popular back in 1980s. "There were 35 state-run consignment stores in Beijing with 2,000 employees. Now there are only six stores with less than 100 staff members," Zhang Lujia, store manager of Jindian Xinqiao Consignment Store, said.

This store has more to see compared to the Liulichang, a street for Chinese paintings, like TV sets, hundreds of old cameras from different brands, used pianos, antique furniture, used washing machines, sewing machines, old-style imported watches like Omega or Rolex and used bikes or tricycles.

These articles are practical with a reasonable price for local Beijingers. For example, a used piano is about 3,900 yuan; antique furniture ranges from several hundred to several thousand; old watches are about 300 yuan. No matter if you are selling to or buying from the consignment stores, you can always haggle.

Zhang said that compared to other individual companies or vendors who collect used stuff, state-run consignment stores have their own team to authenticate products like more valuable items.



Jindian Xinqiao Consignment Store is popular for selling used bikes among the expat community.

Photo by Art Yuan

State-run consignment stores near your area

Jindian Xinqiao Consignment Store Chongwen Department

Collects and sells wooden or other used furniture
Address: 110 Yard, Yongwai Xi Gexinli, Chongwen District
Tel: 6724 7861

Jindian Xinqiao Consignment Store Dongcheng Department

Collects and sells cameras, watches and craftwork
Address: 74 Guangmennei Dajie, Xuanwu District
Tel: 6356 0642

Jindian Xinqiao Consignment Store Chaoyang Department

Collects and sells used items, second-hand automobiles, overstocked items and provides warehouse service
Address: 4 Qingnian Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 8574 8121

Jindian Xinqiao Consignment Store Dongcheng Department

Collects and sells Chinese and western musical instruments, used items and cameras
Address: 43 Dongsu Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6404 5176, 8402 1939

Address: 43 Dongsu Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6404 5176, 8402 1939

Qianmen Department Store

Collects and sells used bicycles
Address: 12, Beihuoshan, Xuanwu District
Tel: 6303 6828

Donghuamen Yimin Department Store

Collects and sells used electronics and other used stuff
Address: 35 Donghuamen Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6525 5240

New info on subway Line 10

By Annie Wei

Although Line 10 has not been opened to the public yet, this week the subway company announced more details.

Stretching a length of 25 kilometers, it starts off from Huoqiyang in west Beijing and runs through northern Beijing, before moving on to eastern Third Ring Road and passing through the heartland of Beijing's CBD.

The train will be more spacious than the old ones. Transferring between Line 10 and the other lines is better designed than in older lines. For example, at Guomao Station, passengers need only walk 70 meters from Line 1 to Line 10.

There are six transfer stops between Line 10 and the other lines, including Guomao, Sanyuanqiao, Shaoyaoju, Huixin Xi Jie, Zhichun Lu and Huangzhuang.

For anyone who is worried about catching a flight, there is good news. It will take only 15 minutes to travel by subway from Sanyuanqiao Station to terminal three at the airport in the future.

To soothe the traffic congestion and be environmental-friendly, there will be four car parking lots and 48 bicycle lots along Line 10. Each car lot can accommodate 660 vehicles with the bike lots holding 28,000 bicycles.

Line 10 is scheduled to open at the end of June. There are only four minutes between each train, and that time will be shortened to three minutes during the Games.

Skating venues suffer from warmer temperatures this year

By Annie Wei/Zhang Dongya

With the recent temperature drop, Shishahai Park finally opened its skating venue to the public last Sunday.

In previous seasons, most outdoor skating venues opened at the end of December.

However, in the first week of January, daytime temperatures were as high as 5C. Some parks have decided not to open this year because the cold winter days were just not long enough.

The water in Beihai and Yuyuantan Parks is stagnant, and with the wind conditions, the ice in these two locations is over 10 centimeters thick. However, the thickness in Zhongshan, Yuyuantan and Taoranting Park is far less than that. Local authorities require that outdoor skating places can only open to public with a minimal thickness of 15 centimeters for safety issues.

Zhongshan Park's skating venue, a hundred years old and the only outdoor venue with a speed-skating area, is closed this year.

Zhongshan Park's staff said their river is narrow and deep, and the ice, due to the higher winter temperatures, is not solid enough to be safe. Local policies require all outdoor skating venues to close in early February as outdoor temperatures starts to rise. Taoranting Park also closed its skating rink this year.



800 people went skating at Shishahai Park last Sunday.

Photo by Dragon Wang

Open outdoor skating places:

Shishahai Scenic Area

Where: Jia23, Yangfang Hutong, Xicheng District
Open hour: 8:30 am - 8:30 pm
Tel: 6612 7652

Admission: 10 yuan/day on the weekdays, 15 yuan/day on the weekends

Zizhuyuan Park

Where: 45, Baishiqiao, Xizhimenwai, Haidian District
Open hour: 9 am - 4 pm
Tel: 6842 5851

Admission: 15 yuan/day

Tuanjiehu Park

Skating is not allowed, but you

can still hit the ice on a bingche, a chair mounted on ice-skates

Where: 16, Nanli, Tuanjiehu, Chaoyang District
Open hour: 8 am - 5 pm
Tel: 8597 3603

Admission: 20 yuan per hour

Beihai Park

Skating is not allowed except for bingche
Where: 1, Wenjin Steet, Xicheng District

Open hour: 9 am - 5 pm
Tel: 6401 6935

Admission: 20 yuan per hour

Zhongshan Park (closed)

Taoranting Park (closed)

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

Where can I find a reliable place for an HIV test that is quiet and protects a patient's privacy?

Doctors at HIV test clinics in Beijing are well-trained.

Beijing Ditan Hospital

Where: 13 Ditan Park, Andingmenwai, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6422 6966

Beijing Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Where: 16 Hepingli Zhongjie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6421 2461 ext. 568

Beijing Institute of STI

Where: 8 Xitoutiao, You'anmenwai

Tel: 6329 3376

Beijing Association of STI and AIDS Prevention

Where: 16 Hepingli Zhongjie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6223 8683

Beijing Youan Hospital

Where: 8 Xitoutiao, You'anmenwai, Beijing

Tel: 6329 3374

I just moved to Beijing and getting a cab here is so much easier compared to where I am from. I want to know which number people dial to call a cab for an emergency.

Call 114 and it will help you reach most registered companies' numbers, such as taxis, hospitals, theaters, restaurants and hotels.

Where can I find stylish maternity clothes?

In a city mixed with varied nationalities, it might not be easy to identify what is "stylish." For European taste, Zara, at The Place on Guanghua Lu, has a mom-to-be line.

Another store named N U 2 Y U B a b y (nu2yubabyshop.com), run by an expat woman, has quite a few clothes for soon-to-be mothers.

Another suggestion is to get clothes tailor-made. Good local tailors can make you copies of any style you see in the latest magazines with prices much lower than department stores.

Where can I buy good and reliable English computer games here in Beijing?

Try the computer software and PlayStation section on the 4th floor of the Xidan-Huawei Building.

They have all the games on disk there, around seven to ten yuan for each. For some games, you need to use a daemon tool to mount it. If the disk can't be installed or there are missing files, you can go back and ask them to help you out.

(By Wei Ying)

By Han Manman

The events of the Cultural Year of Greece opened in 2008 with an exhibition of a modern visual show, "Labyrinths" at 798. The Babel Comics exhibition themed "Labyrinths" includes comics, illustrations, graphic design, street and video art and sculpture installations. The show introduces visitors to a great number of modern visual artists, who represent a significant part of today's Greek artistic creations. *Beijing Today* chose a few highlights of the event.

What is Babel

The Babel magazine, one of the oldest of its genre in Europe, was born in February, 1981, and introduced to the Greek public and the greatest international comics creators. Babel is a meeting-point of contemporary cultural events. Having as its nucleus the monthly comics magazine, Babel's activities extend from publishing comics and other art books to organizing exhibitions with a focus on the expression and evolution of young creative artists.

Ancient Greeks "Labyrinths"

Niki Tzouda, co-curator of the exhibition said they decided to use this name because "Labyrinths" is a symbol of Greece.

In ancient Greek mythology, the labyrinths were complex structures with convoluted passages and crossing galleries, from where it was almost impossible to find a way out. Yet Theseus and Ariadne, so the story goes, managed to do it using a simple thread.

With the thread as a guide to find their way through the labyrinths of today -the modern way of life, the crowded metropolises and the fast pace of urban and financial growth in cities such as Beijing and Athens- Babel, 31 Greek artists have come to 798 to share and exchange images and ideas.

City image

According to Tzouda, "Labyrinth" means cities - vast, chaotic, with mostly grey hues, they represent both castles and cages. Every city, from Buenos Aires and New York to Paris, Athens and Beijing, is a definite labyrinth.

The Greek artists included comic artists, graphics designers, street artists, illustrators and installation artists and used many ways to express their urban visions and some rare fragments of a human's astral loneliness.

"Their goal is to save the old traces and rhythms that were wiped out by the non-places of super modernity, where 'we are always and never feel at home anymore,' as the anthropologist Marc Auge points out," Tzouda said.

The organizer said all works have no captions and visitors can think in any way as they wish.



Comics artist Fotis Pehlivanidis

Live creation

Five artists, who were invited to Beijing, have been distinguished at international events for their singular personal style. And their works in the "Labyrinths" exhibition were all created after they came to Beijing, transferring the very essence of street art to an interior exhibition space.

"I finished my project in two days without sleep after I arrived in Beijing," Maria Karathanon said, adding that as their works are mostly live creation, it's hard to be moved from Greece to Beijing.

During the opening ceremony last Friday, the five artists created live graffiti on a white wall. Karathanon drew an abstract figure, which she said was about "a lonely female in the crowd", however most audience members said they did not get it. "I don't do any preparation, I just draw what's in my mind at the moment," Karathanon said.

Stelios Faitakis who usually employs the style of Byzantine religious painting, painted a landscape with the ink. When the Greek audience commented, "Oh, it's Chinese art," Faitakis seemed very glad. Having never learned traditional Chinese painting, he used his finger instead of a brush pen to paint the trees, which evoked cheers from the audience.



At the live show scene

More tradition, less imitation

According to the Greek artists, street art is the modern mural and popular amongst both the Chinese and Greek younger generation. However, these artists said street art should be combined with the country's traditions, not just copied from American style.

"Nowadays, many Greek street art artists copy the American style and forget about our country's valuable tradition," Faitakis said.

"Young artists do try to create some originality in their work which is good, but they should concentrate more on tradition and less imitation," Faitakis said, adding, "Chinese street artists should bear in mind that their country has a rich history of painting. If they combined the proper elements into their street art work, Chinese street artists could have a very huge potential on the world stage."

Labyrinths: A Comics and Contemporary Visual Arts Exhibition

Where: 798 Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: daily 10:30 am - 6 pm, until February 15
Tel: 6437 6248, or 6438 4862



b's "personal symbol"

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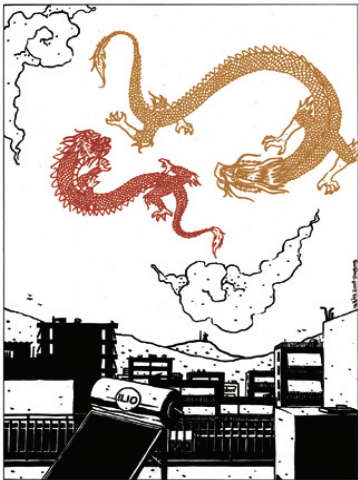
Young Greek artists

What exactly does it mean to be a young Greek artist in the 21st century? According to Tzouda, contemporary young Greek artists are inspired by the city landscapes and transform them in their own distinctive ways. Eastern, Greek and Byzantine influences meet with modern and western images and ways of expression, seeking to narrate stories of everyday life.

The conjunction of various kinds of art -painting, sculpture, theatre direction, literature, architecture- in order to create new forms of art, as well as the use of new technologies and the combination of classical painting with digital images, are also important features of modern artistic expression.



Stelion Faitakis' work



Taxis' work



Street artist Kasapis' work

I love "Taxis"

In the live graffiti show, a young Greek artist left some Greek words on the wall. When asked the meaning, he laughed and said the words mean, "I love Taxis."

"Taxis" here has nothing to do with a cab driver. It is the Greek artist's name. Born in 1983, Taxis is the youngest among the artists to come to Beijing.

He said proudly that he dubbed himself with the name, "Taxis" when he was a schoolboy. He also gave the same name to his football team.

Taxis focuses on comics and street art and most of his works have a close link with music, especially the music of the 1960s generation. "I love all things that happened in the 1960s, from the music to car equipment," he said.

The world of "b"



Taxis' Work

Called himself, "b", his work can be easily recognized with his "personal symbol".

In a world full of corporate logos, religious symbols and team emblems, he creates parasite brands, yellow and black mermaids, anchor tattoos and oil-flags, the personal symbols of his work, which can be frequently seen on the walls of Athens.

Born in 1982, b lives and works in Athens as an architect, graphic designer and street artist.



b's signature image

Photos provided by Greek Embassy

A memoirist of photos, not words

By Charles Zhu

Annie Leibovitz's lens has captured the faces of fame outside the limelight for a generation.

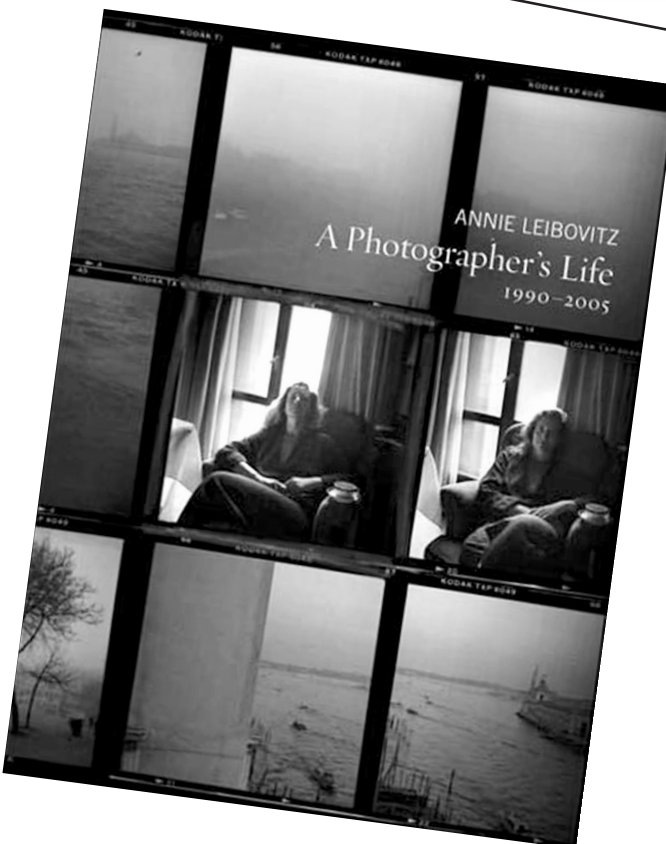
Her current exhibit, ending Monday, at the Brooklyn Museum includes 197 photos of Nelson Mandela, Merce Cunningham, Joseph Brodsky, Willie Nelson and more. If the weekend does not find you in New York, fear not! *A Photographer's Life, 1990-2005* (472 pp, Random House, US \$75) collects the exhibit photos for permanent enjoyment.

Leibovitz has made a name for herself with her clever camera. Her shot of George W. Bush and his advisers was juxtaposed with Michael Moore and his assistants while on exhibit.

Her pictures brim with optimism and comic effect when they catch a topless Mick Jagger posing on an unmade bed, Leonardo DiCaprio with a swan cradled in his arm, Jack Nicholson gripping a golf club in a bathrobe and dark glasses and young actress Scarlett Johansson in a Hollywood costume and satin panties.

Of all her celebrity photographs, the most interesting are of long-time friend Susan Sontag, an American essayist.

Leibovitz caught a rare private moment when Susan Sontag was sleeping on a couch with one of her legs thrown freely across its back, with a magazine and a pair of glasses lying quietly by its side. The photo was an unobstructed glimpse into the life of an



essayist: free and unobstructed.

The most striking photos of her friend were of her last days in New York City and Seattle hospitals. Sontag was virtually unrecognizable; her face distorted and stomach grotesquely swollen.

"I forced myself to take pictures of Susan's last days. Perhaps the pictures completed the work she and I had begun together when she was sick in 1998 ... I cried for a month," she said, defending the photographs.

"I didn't real-

ize until later how far the work on the book had taken me through the grieving process. It's the closest thing to who I am that I've ever done," she said.

Leibovitz said she edited the book with "Susan Sontag in mind, as if she were standing behind the photographer, saying what she would like to see in it."

"Granted that the memoirist impulse is fundamentally narcissistic and that the memoirist is obliged to make much of human experiences that are common to us all," Joyce Carol Oats, a contemporary writer, said of the book.

CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.

You Could Do Better

By Stephanie Lehmann, 272 pp, NAL Trade, 90 yuan

Daphne Wells is too busy watching television to start planning her wedding. She tells herself being glued to the boob tube counts as research for her job at the Museum of Television and Radio. Truth is, as much as she is looking forward to a future with her fiancé, Charlie, their sex life just isn't ready for prime time. That is when Daphne meets sexy, successful writer/producer Jonathan Hill when he visits the museum for inspiration.

A Spell of Swallows

By Sarah Harrison, 384 pp, Hodder Paperback, 90 yuan

Vivien Mariner loves her husband and is adored by him in return. So why does she find herself so strongly drawn to John Ashe, the enigmatic stranger who appears in Eadenford, as if from nowhere, the summer after the Great War ends? Interweaving a devastating

account of the bloody chaos of war with the ruthless seduction of a principled woman, Sarah paints an absorbing picture of the vulnerability of love.

In at the Death

By David Wishart, 304 pp, Hodder & Stoughton, 90 yuan

The sudden suicide of a young man prompts his family to ask veteran sleuth Marcus Corvinus to investigate. As usual, Marcus needs Perilla's agile brain to untangle the case, which grows more complex by the minute. Eventually the pair realizes that the suicide was actually a political murder. Corvinus finds his investigations hampered by his new role as reluctant dog sitter to the misnamed Placida, a Gallic boarhound with a gargantuan appetite and minimal hygiene.

CNPIEC Bookstore

Where: the second floor of CNPIEC, 16 Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang

Open: 8:30 am - 6:30 pm

Tel: 6500 1859, 6592 6871

(By He Jianwei)



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Beijing Today



Don't know

when to rise or rest?

Phoning groups take on netizen sleeping troubles

By He Jianwei

Several "groups" emerged on the Chinese Internet scene last year, especially on douban.com, to provide calling services to their members.

Although the members rarely know each other in real life, their calls provide the caring and supportive network many cannot maintain in the modern rush.

Friendly wake-up call

Crawling out of bed on a winter morning is painful: knowing you will spend your daylight hours locked in the office doesn't make it any easier. To force themselves out of bed, some users started a "Wake-up Call" service group.

In this group, users post their wake-up call requests by leaving their mobile phone numbers and the time they need to be up. Other group members call at the requested time to rouse them.

Su Duowei, a college student, has become a wake-up call addict. On January 6, she used the group for the first time to request a 7:20 am wake-up call.

She received several calls and SMS messages from group members that morning. "It had been a long time since I last woke up early, but thanks to the group, I wasn't late for class," she said.

Su believed she could wake up on her own after that, but ended up missing all her morning classes and waking up a noon class the next day.

"Someone in the group asked why I didn't set a clock. Actually, I set my clock to go off at eight different times - I've just become numb to its sound," she said.

The group was founded last March and has grown to include 1,800 users from 60 cities, both home and abroad.

Most people in need of wake-up calls are students with early exams or important job interviews, but a few join in even though they can wake up to their standard buzzer alarm. "I just want to know someone is waking me up. When I hear people call to wake me up, it leaves my heart with a warm feeling," Lin Kun said.

Besides the group listed on douban.com, the wake-up service has spawned two QQ groups.

Website: douban.com/group/goodmorning

Send messages to the one you love from strangers

You can not only receive phone calls and messages from strangers to wake you up, but you also can ask them to send messages to the one you love.

A Sun, a netizen from Foshan, Guangdong Province, started a group to pass on messages to your loved ones last October 29.

The idea is that if you want a loved one to receive messages from a lot of people for congratulations or for other reasons, you can post the message's text and the number to dial or message and leave it to the group members to do the rest.

Most messages are birthday greetings.

"I will give my father a big surprise on his birthday, and I think if he receives greetings from all his daughter's friends, then he will remember this year's birthday forever," Li Xiaoyao, a group member, said.

Some of the members call on others for help. A man using the handle "Donglishuiche" posted that he hurt his girlfriend and didn't want to lose her, and called on the group members to message her and say he was sorry.

Although he didn't see her that night, she did relent, and called him to forgive him. The story inspired many group members about the power of mass messaging.

The group has attracted 600 members to date.

Website: douban.com/group/qunfa

Evening call to say good night

Many people go to sleep very late - an unhealthy but often necessary habit. "Need someone to call to remind you to go to bed?" was set up last December 25.

It is similar to the "Good Morning" service, but in this group, users post their phone numbers and the time they want to say lights out. Members in the group will call or send a message to remind them it is time to log off.

Some people need the service to combat online game addiction which can keep them burning the midnight oil. A call from a stranger to remind them to go to bed can make a world of difference when it comes to getting the recommended 8 hours of sleep.

Website: douban.com/group/76216



Photo by Kang Yongjun

The early bird catches the discount

Why the markets are popular

The morning markets remain popular today, but their origins go back to the 1980s.

At that time, there were many laid off workers who needed something to do with their days. The markets first appeared by the north gate of Worker's Stadium and Xibianmen, and then fanned out across the city. Most stay open from early morning to noon.

Morning markets were set up on each street of each community in each district. As of last year, the city has about 100 morning markets located in its crowded residential areas. At first, vendors sold only vegetables, fruit and similar foods. Over time, the markets attracted vendors peddling sea food, pots and bowls.

The markets quickly grew popular with locals, and during summer, vendors would come to provide snacks and hairdressing services. Generally, making sales was not the order of the day.

The earliness of the morning markets is precisely why they attract so many old people. Generally, the time the markets open is exactly after when they finish their morning exercises. It is a great way for old Beijingers to relax and gossip after morning exercise.

Vegetables and fruits are cheaper than those sold in grocery shops and supermarkets: that is because they are picked by the vendors fresh from their own fields each morning. The markets are also a place open to haggling. Many vendors will throw in some extra produce as a bonus if shoppers buy a lot.

Aside from vegetables, fruits and other foods, most goods sold are fairly low-end. Shoes can cost 2 yuan, and a suit of clothes can run 10. Some products are fake or inferior quality, but most people who visit morning markets care little about authenticity – they care about price.

By Gan Tian

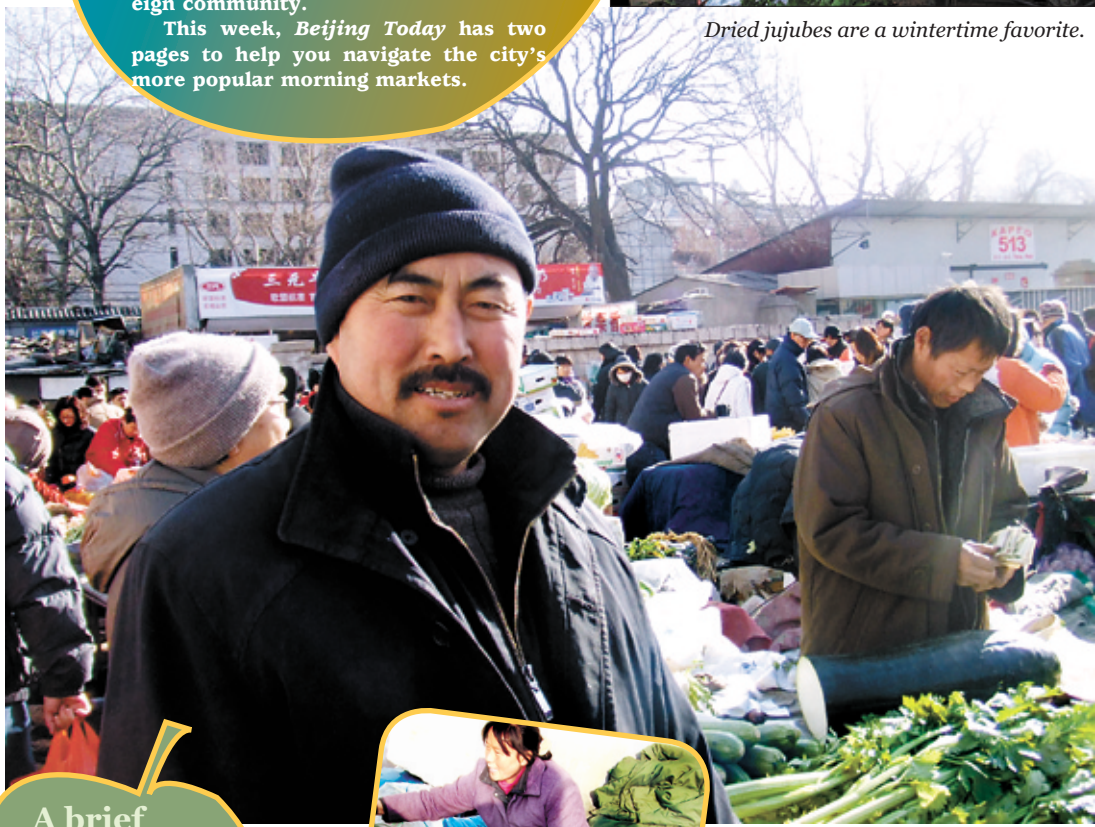
While a big juicy worm may be enough to rouse Beijing's birds at early hours, its human inhabitants may be more attracted to *zaoshi*, or morning markets.

The earlier you arrive, the steeper the discount and better the selection – things quite attractive to the city's foreign community.

This week, *Beijing Today* has two pages to help you navigate the city's more popular morning markets.



Dried jujubes are a wintertime favorite.



Wang and his wife sell produce at the market every morning.

A brief history of market madness

Zaoshi, or morning markets, were called *xiaoshi* in ancient times. The *xiaoshi* were usually located near gates or temples. Dongxiaoshi was near Chongwenmen Gate and the Temple of Heaven, and there was a *xiaoshi* near the Deshengmen Gate.

After 1949, *xiaoshi* gradually disappeared, but since then some related names remained.

The *xiaoshi* were a little different from modern morning markets: the vendors usually sold second-hand goods. There were also some products specific to each *xiaoshi*: Dongdan Bei Dajie was near Lumicang, which was the Forbidden City's granary, so its morning market sold rice. Guang'anmen Nei Dajie was near a vegetable garden, so its morning market specialized in greens. Other markets specialized in coal, jewels and porcelain.

After 1949, there were bird markets, stamp markets and clothing markets. Some of these markets are now world famous – the Xiushui Clothing Market and Panjiayuan Second-hand Market grew out of the morning markets.

The markets were not without their drawbacks: they contributed heavily to their area's noise and environmental pollution. Local some local residents complained bitterly – especially the night shift workers.



Yams here are 2-3 yuan for 500 grams.

What do residents think of morning markets?

You should call it *Zaoshi'er*! It is a typical Beijing experience and I love it. I come here every morning to exercise and also to buy cheap vegetables.

– Ma Xiuqin, 55, retired

The fruits and vegetables here are really good. They are all freshly picked by farmers, and if you buy a lot, they will often give you a bonus. They are really nice people!

– Zhu Quanguai, 59, retired

I come here every day before I go to work. I buy breakfast and sometimes get fruit for my coworkers. They are really cheap.

– Shui Tuyuan, 28, editor

My home is on the same street as the Tuanjieshu morning market. On weekends, the markets make me crazy. They start at 6 am or earlier, and you can hear all the people bargaining and shouting and their children crying. I can never sleep well on weekend mornings.

– Luo Xiaoxia, 25, advertisement copywriter

My grandparents get up at 5 am to go to the morning markets. I don't know why they wake up so early to shop there – everything the market has is available in the supermarket, and it only costs an extra two yuan. I don't know. Maybe they just like the atmosphere.

– Zhang Qingchun, 20, student

Continued on page 17...



Daikon fresh from the field await eager customers.

Photos by Annie Wei

... continued from page 16



Crispy shaobing run 3.5 yuan per 500 grams.

Market locations

Tuanjiehu Morning Market

Where: West Gate of Tuanjiehu Park, Chaoyang

Open: 6 am – 10 am

How to get there: Take bus 115 or 718 and get off at Tuanjiehu Park.

Dahongmen Clothing Morning Market

Where: 15 Nanyuan Lu, Fengtai

Open: 4 am – 10 am

How to get there: Take bus 729 or 854 and get

off at Guyuan.

Laitai Flower Morning Market

Where: Maizidian Xi Jie, Chaoyang

Open: 5 am – 8 am

How to get there: Take bus 707 or 416 and get off at Maizidian Xi Jie.

Guanyuan Bird Morning Market

Where: Northeast Corner of Fuchengmen, Xicheng

Open: Weekend 6 am – 10 am

How to get there: Take 387 and get off at Fuchengmen.

Exploring the markets

By Annie Wei

The morning market at the end of Gongti Xi Lu, close to the city's most popular clubs, stands in stark contrast to the neon lights of Sanlitun night club. Its fresh fruits and vegetables, morning sunshine and hospitable sellers conjure up images of simpler times.

Beijing Today introduces some local favorites that bring Beijingers back to the markets day after day.

A decade in the markets

Wang and his wife sell mushrooms, cucumbers and other vegetables outside the market. While customers are busy picking out vegetables, Wang stands guard to protect his produce.

He and his wife have sold in the morning market for 10 years. It doesn't earn so much, but it pays their 1,200-yuan rent with another 2,000 - 3,000 left over. But the work is hard, and mandates a 6:30 am to noon shift without a break.

Food prices peak during Spring Festival. "The colder the weather is, the more expensive the food gets," Wang said.

Unlock the power of yams

Yams, called *Shanyao* in Chinese, are an important ingredient of the Chinese diet and preventative Chinese medicine. Extensive research shows they have a positive impact on the body's hormonal balance.

In Chinese medicine, the yam is also considered good for the stomach. For people with gastric distress, a small bowl of pearl barley with yam porridge in the morning can help.

Although it looks like a dry stick on the outside, the inside is fresh and crispy. You will need to wear gloves to peel it, and after peeling, the white inside will darken quickly. Place peeled yams in water to prevent oxidization. A popular Chinese dish is fried yams with wood ear.

Price: 2-3 yuan for 500 grams. Thicker yams cost more.

Not-so-sweet potato

Fruits in the morning market look fresher and cost less than supermarket equivalents. Apples, oranges and pears are in season during winter. Grapes are not as good a buy – they are not a seasonal fruit and taste of the storage shelves.

Tianshan xuelian guo is the most recommended fruit sold in the market. Although it looks like a sweet potato, it is not: it is juicy and crispy, and tastes like the combination of sweet sugar-sticks and pears. The fruit comes from high altitude areas like Tibet, and is rich in nutrition.

Price: starts from 4 yuan per 500 grams.

Fried black beans, dried nuts

The benefits of black beans are well documented. Beans are a great source of cholesterol-lowering fiber, which can help regulate blood sugar levels after a meal. Black beans are especially helpful in the diet of people who have diabetes, insulin resistance or hypoglycemia.

But how many of us actually cook with black beans?

It's a treat to see fried beans available at the entrance of the market. They taste crispy, delicious and a little salty.

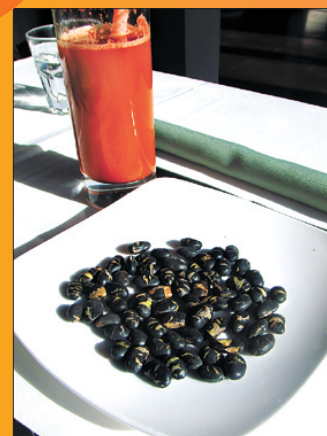
One local recipe involves soaking the beans in vinegar for several days. Pickled beans are said to help relieve eye strain, especially for people who spend long hours in front of computers.

Price: 6 yuan for 500 grams.

Useful tools

Morning markets are popular with the city's older residents. After morning exercises, they go to the market to stock up on fresh and cheap fruits and vegetables for their families. To help lug back the daily haul, some shoppers will push a buggy. A simple buggy can help avoid the pains of dragging 10 plastic bags through the crowded market.

Price: 38 yuan



Fried black beans, 6 yuan per 500 grams



Oranges from Fujian Province are as cheap as 10 yuan for 1.5 kilograms.



Buggy



Daliao

Photos by Annie Wei

Hotel

Soft opening of Shangri-La Hotel, Chiang Mai

Shangri-La Hotel, Chiang Mai is positioned as a deluxe city resort, complementing its sister property, Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok. Its design and architecture are influenced by the city's 700-year history and strong cultural heritage, and a "Lanna Renaissance" theme is evident throughout its facilities. The new hotel is located in the heart of Chiang Mai on Chang Klan Road, a convenient 10-minute drive from the domestic and international airports, and within walking distance of the city's famous Night Bazaar.

To celebrate the soft opening of the Shangri-La Hotel and Resorts group's second hotel in Thailand, a special opening offer starting from US \$270 for a deluxe room, including a buffet breakfast, is available until February 2008. Guests are also invited to celebrate the festive season at Kad Kafe, where special introductory prices are available during the soft opening.

Where: Shangri-La, Chiang Mai, 89/8 Chang Klan Road, Muang, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Tel: (66 53) 253 888, (852) 2331 6688 (for global booking)



Dining

Business Set Menu at Le Pré Lenotre

Indulge yourself in Le Pré Lenotre French Gastronomy Restaurant of Sofitel Wanda Beijing with a set menu proposed by Chef de Cuisine Frédéric Meynard served with exquisite wine.

Where: Sofitel, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang

Open: Noon - 2 pm, 6 - 10 pm

Cost: 198-238 + 15 percent yuan (lunch), 480-888 + 15 percent yuan (dinner)

Tel: 8599 6666 ext 6528



Vulcan

This bookstore has a nice collection of Chinese books and postcards with ancient Chinese photos in them. The Vulcan, a bar, is right next door.

Where: 145 Nanlou Guxiang, Dongcheng

Open: 10 am - late

Tel: 8404 0561



Cote Coffee

This cozy and unpretentious cafe has a small and eclectic collection of English and Chinese books. The price is reasonable, given the quality.

Where: 125 Baochao Hutong, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

Open: 10 am - midnight

Tel: 6403 4847

Nightlife

A Tribute to Dream Theater

Do not cry for the disappearing Dream Theater in January, because Star Live is presenting a tribute concert.

The line up will perform all the classic Dream Theater songs. If you cannot afford expensive tickets, come to the Star for this ter-

rific show. It features Chen Lei, Eight Hands, Haishi Shenlou and Xia Yan.

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng

When: 8 pm, January 20

Admission: 40 yuan (advance), 50 yuan (door)



Magyar Posse

Magyar Posse is a Finnish post-rock band established in 2000 in the city of Pori. Since their first album, *We Will Carry You Over The Mountains* in 2002, they have been praised by critics. The band describes their style as cinematic and massive.

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Coutyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng



When: 8 pm - 2 am next day, January 18

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Outdoors

The Secret Valley

This walk is rich in dramatic rock formations, river beds, fruit trees and history. It was once home to monks. There are two temple ruins, one on each side of the loop. The valley is a secret because it is not visible unless you climb to the nearby summit.

There are two caves, the first one is not shallow and was once inhabited by monks. That was when the valley was not so dry and a stream gurgled outside the cave. The second cave, Sunny Cave, sits farther up the hill and is quite deep. Outside the cave, the sun shines on to a ledge, a stele lies on the ground near the entrance, and just inside there



sits a headless Buddha.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm, January 20

Cost: 200 yuan

Tel: 13910025516 (reservations at Beijing Hikers are essential)

Xuanwu Hutong & Courtyard Houses Pedicab Tour

See authentic alleys and courtyard houses, the real life of Beijingers. Visit local homes in the neighborhood for a chat with residents, check out a small vegetable market and visit a kindergarten to meet cute children. The tour ends up with a stroll and shop along the famous Liulichang Cultural Street.

The walk and ride along the old alleyways in the neighborhood provide an opportunity to see inside the central capital

in this rapidly changing country. It is in sharp contrast with those Beijingers who live in high rises. You will observe locals doing all kinds of different trades and housework.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of the KFC restaurant (next to the Laoshe Teahouse, Qianmen Xi Dajie)

When: 2 pm - 4:30 pm

Cost: 150 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration at CCC is important)



If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

By Charles Zhu

Health tips for the senior citizens? Here are some recent scientific discoveries.

Exercise equates to a brighter brain

Cognitive reserve, key to health

In a study of brains, scientists found animals are exposed to harsh, complex natural conditions that call for active, incessant and constant physical and mental responses.

Cathryn Jakobson Ramin talks about this discovery in her book, *Carved in Sand: When Attention Fails And Memory Fades In Midlife*. Scientists said animals may be compensation for damaged nerve cells with extra healthy and normal neurons and links, neuropsychologists call cognitive reserve.

Scientists studied a group of old bridge players for a long time, a game that calls for great mental power. The players showed exceptional mental agility. They had to bid cleverly, observe the complex rules and watch for changes of their opponents. They remained sharp and active while non-players failed in memory and activity.

People who complete higher education may have greater cognitive reserves since intellectual challenge spurs neuron development.

Ramin said, educated people choose intellectually challenging jobs and pursue brain-stimulating hobbies such as traveling, playing cards, learning foreign languages, plays and concerts. Continuously doing new things is crucial to stimulates the aging brain, she said.

In a study of elderly New Yorkers by Nicholas Scarmeas of Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, scientists found those who continue to pursue intellectual or social hobbies had a 38 percent decreased risk of developing dementia. Another study indicated that the more extended an elderly person's social network, the better his brain worked.

Exercise is key to mental agility

A study by Sandra Aamodt, an editor from Nature Neuroscience, and Sam Wang, a neuroscientist from Princeton University, shows physical exercise "improves the set of abilities that allows you to select behavior that is appropriate to the situation, inhibit inappropriate behavior and focus on the job at hand

"Elderly people who have been athletic all their lives have much better executive function than sedentary people of the same age," they reported.

Studies also show that exercisers improve cognitive reserves. Compared with non-exercisers, people who start sports in mid-life are one-third less likely to develop Alzheimer's in their 70s. If you start exercising in your 60s, you cut the risk of dementia in half. This is because exercise stimulates blood flow and supplies more oxygen and nutrients to the brain, reducing the incidence of mini-strokes and clogged vessels and helps the growth of new neurons and neuronal connections.

Active lifestyle, most beneficial

As a young man, I was infatuated with Rahmetov, a hero in Chernyshevsky's novel, *What Is To Be Done?* He slept on a bed of nails to temper his will. Mirroring the iron will of this man, I took to cold baths in winter at Fudan University. I rose earlier than the scheduled 6 am and went to the dormitory bathroom to take a cold bath. When I returned, my roommates were still sleeping in their warm beds. After I came to Beijing, I went swimming at Yuyuantan Lake in winter with a group of hardy guys. No matter whether it was a sunny or a cloudy day, we plunged into the piercingly cold water and came out lobster-red. This exercise helped me withstand the severe New England winters while I was at Cambridge. After many years as a journalist in Africa, where I swam in the Indian Ocean, I have continued swimming for up to 1.5 kilometers every day. The hobby has been a great boost to my health.

Studies show 30 to 60 minutes of brisk walking several times a week help your health. I take long walks in the woods in a park near my home every day. In addition to a diet of mainly fruits and vegetables, grapefruit in particular, I swim and walk on a regular basis. Exercise and constant intellectual challenge are more beneficial indeed to my health than translating a novel or writing an English or Chinese essay.



Photo by Liu Ying

Scent of Spring Festival is in the air

This year's Spring Festival will arrive on February 7, earlier than last year's. In Beijing, an interesting way to celebrate the festival is by visiting a temple fair. The city has tons of temples with dozens of fairs, but few fairs have been in existence for long and popular among the locals.



Baiyunguan: touring on a donkey



Touch the monkeys for good luck in the new year.

Baiyunguan is the biggest Taoist temple in northern China. From the beginning of the first month of the lunar year, the temple holds a fair for 18 and a half days. It is the longest temple fair in Beijing.

The Baiyunguan Temple Fair began in Yuan Dynasty (1206-1370), and its apex was at the end of Ming and start of Qing Dynasty. At first, the fair was a small one with scattered performances limited to the gate. Starting from Ming Dynasty, activities increased both inside and out.

The temple's has hidden reliefs of stone monkeys on its walls, though during the temple fair, occasional queues of people waiting to touch could ruin the fun of finding the reliefs. People believe touching the monkeys can bring luck and fortunate.

The temple's bridge is another popular stop. Two large, bronze coins hang from the bridge with a small bell in the center. People throw coins to strike the bell for good luck.

Baiyunguan is also a place to ride donkeys. In ancient times, due to bad traffic, people usually went to temple fair by donkey. Though many people today have cars, you can still tour the fair on one of the temple's donkeys.

“Last year, I went to Baiyunguan to touch the stone monkeys with my husband. We went there at dusk. It was so crowded then, and the monkeys were quite small. If you have not been there and touched them, it will be hard for you to find them. The monkeys are showing a lot of wear from the years of people touching them.”

— shouyeliyin in Beijing



Tanghulu are a delicious fair favorite.

Photo by Zhang Yinping

Changdian: oldest temple fair

The Changdian Temple Fair is one of the city's oldest, and has been held to celebrate the festival for 400 years. It began in Ming Dynasty (1368-1683) and reached its apex during the Qianlong Emperor's reign (1735-1795).

The fair is held yearly, and opens on the first day of the first lunar month and continues for half the month: it remains Beijing's largest fair.

During Yuan Dynasty (1206-1370), the government used the area to build kilns to fire glazed tiles, called *liuli* in Chinese. Its history of tile firing is why the area is known today as Liulichangdian.

There were three temples in the Changdian area. During the first month of the lunar year, vendors and crowds gathered there for Buddhist ceremonies.

Changdian is close to the center of the city, so lots of people, old and young, like to visit its fair during Spring Festival. From 1964 – 2001, the Changdian Temple Fair was halted due to traffic problems.

The fair focuses on ancient culture, including books, calligraphy and paintings. Traditional snacks and toys are also popular, and the area's *laozihao* stores provide traditional cultural performances at the fair.

“I like the Changdian Temple Fair. I think it is because I lived in Liulichang during my childhood. When I was a child, I went to the fair every year to watch the performances and to eat tanghulu. When the fair resumed in 2001, I was excited and took my son. I told him stories about traditional Beijing culture and the fair vendors, performers, games and snacks. Chinese people should not abandon traditional culture in the face of Western penetration.”

— Blues Zeng in Beijing

Changdian Temple Fair is one of the four most famous temple fairs in China: Fuzimiao Temple Fair in Nanjing, Chenghuangmiao Temple Fair in Shanghai and Qingyanggong Temple Fair in Chengdu are the others. I went to the fair last year with my friends. The traditional Beijing atmosphere was thick. I bought a *tuye'r*, a kind of clay rabbit traditional toy. The snacks were delicious, but the crowds made me uncomfortable.

— Israe in Tianjin

Continued on page 21 ...



Photo by Chen Xiaogen

... continued from page 20

Longtanhu: sporty temple fair

The 25th Longtanhu Temple Fair will be held next Spring Festival. The *huahui* competition, where people perform different characters in historical stories, folk tales and real life, is one of its main highlights.

The competition was first organized in 1987, and in 1996,

teams from Hong Kong, Macao and Japan participated for the first time.

Another feature of the Longtanhu Temple Fair is the sports competitions. Winter swimming, Chinese martial arts, wrestling, taekwondo and *xiangqi*, or Chinese chess, competitions have

been held with professional players from national teams invited to compete with visitors.

For this year's competition, the focus will be on the Olympic Games. The park organizers are planning a large competition field for this year which will include 28 sports and activities.

“ I go to the Longtanhu Temple Fair every year. Even if I need to work during Spring Festival, I find a way to get one day off to visit the fair. I always win toys in its games. I won a big jumping tiger toy and a toy bear. It doesn't cost much more money to just buy

the toys – the prices are cheaper than in other fairs.

– xiaoxiaochunyu in Beijing

One of the reasons that I like the Longtanhu Temple Fair is it's near my home. But the crowds it draws are a real headache. It was selected as one of the most popular temple fairs among

Beijing citizens last year. Every temple fair is almost the same – snacks, traditional performances and toys – but many famous athletes are invited to Longtanhu. It is a great way to provide a unique fair experience.

– May in Beijing

Ditan: worshiping the earth

This year marks the 23rd anniversary of the Ditan Temple Fair. The Land Worship Ceremony held on the first day of the lunar year by the temple organizers is an important part of the fair.

The ceremony is held as it was during the Qing Dynasty. People gather at the offering platform to wait for it to start. Since the ceremony resumed in 1990, it has drawn

hundreds of people every year.

Before it starts, the four corners of the platform are used for opera, dance and acrobatic performances. Actors play the role of the emperor and his officials and perform the full nine stages of the worship ceremony.

The Ditan Temple Fair draws more than the local snack vendors: foods from the Xinjiang Uygur

Autonomous Region and Sichuan Province are readily available. Listening to the shouts of folk artists hawking their goods is a way to travel back to the city's past.

The game rooms also feature many traditional toys. Whether you've seen them before or not, you can come to try them out and learn how children played in the past.

“ It seems the Ditan Temple Fair is turning into a costume ball because many visitors buy masks and hats. There are lots of snacks, but they cost a lot and don't taste that great. The games

were mostly similar to the ones you would find at any Carnival.

– xiaobai in Beijing

I go to different temple fairs each year. The games in Ditan were nice and I won a big pig last year, but the snacks were

disappointing. There was nothing cheaper than 10 yuan – it gets more expensive every year. There were fewer performers, too.

– grey rabbit in Beijing

(By Jackie Zhang)



Dough figurines and other traditional toys flood temple fairs.

Photo by Che Liang

Buy UNICEF Greeting Cards/Gifts and Help Children in China

购买联合国儿童基金会的贺卡/礼品 帮助中国贫困儿童

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Send a card Save a life

In true festive spirit, when you give beautiful UNICEF cards and gifts to family, friends and clients this season, your generosity reaches many more than just those on your list. Your purchase enables children in China to benefit from the life-saving and life-changing gifts of healthcare, better nutrition and basic education particularly for girls and protection of disadvantaged groups.

What is special about UNICEF cards?

The UNICEF greeting card program has a 58-year history that began when a seven-year-old girl in the former Czechoslovakia gave her drawing to UNICEF to say "thank you" for the help she received. Today, UNICEF cards are sold in many countries using designs donated by artists from all over the world.

Most people don't know that 10 percent of UNICEF's worldwide programs are funded by sales of its cards and gifts. And if you or your company sends UNICEF cards/gifts, the recipients may buy the cards next year. That's significant, because the more cards/gifts we sell, the more children we can help. UNICEF cards are printed on recycled paper, and they're great for a variety of occasions: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Get Well, Thinking of You, Season's Greetings, and general use. You can also give them as gifts to your family and friends. Proceeds from cards sold in China are used exclusively for projects in China.

Cards are usually sold in packs of 10 costing RMB 75-85 (about US \$10). The money goes a long way: Just RMB 1 provides a year's supply of Vitamin A supplements for a Chinese child, boosting her immune system and reducing her chances of childhood mortality.

Welcome to see the cards and gifts in our showroom (from now to Dec. 24, 2007, open all week days, 8:30-17:30), conveniently located in central Beijing at 12 Sanlitun Road in Chaoyang District, Beijing.

You can contact us by calling (+8610) 6532 3131, UNICEF

- Extension 2204/6 for South China (Beijing, Shanghai)

- Extension 2205 for East China

Fax: (+8610) 65324816

E-mail: china.children@unicef.org

Web site: www.unicef.org/china

Also, welcome to our stand sale and appreciate the support from the following hotels and department stores (Please contact us for the updated schedule):

Holiday Inn Lido Beijing

Nov. 5, 2007 - Nov. 18, 2007

Kerry Mall

Nov. 15, 2007 - Dec. 25, 2007

PYJ Center

Nov. 19, 2007 - Nov. 23, 2007

Pacific Century Place, Beijing

Dec. 1, 2007 - Dec. 25, 2007

China World Shopping Mall

Dec. 1, 2007 - Dec. 25, 2007



Among primary schools in rural China, less than one in three schools has sports classes. 66% of these rural students have less than one hour of physical activity per day. This is because these schools lack sports equipment, sports facilities and teachers who can conduct sports classes. To reduce the gap between the rural and urban areas, UNICEF in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and local education authorities, promotes the "Sports-in-a-Box" project in schools in remote areas of western China. Please refer to Page 11 to learn the details of "Sports-in-a-Box". Offer your love to purchase "Sports-in-a-Box". UNICEF will send it to the schools in the western poor regions of China on behalf of you. Please write down the details of your contact information, we will send you the feedback regarding the delivery of the Box. Thank you!

Volunteers' phone numbers:

15021200960	0451-88986330	13802991953
0451-88698448	13903654170	13550070404
13061703717	13936505749	13982030802
13003235552	13796661898	13823556626
13482424149	13920585377	13550115095
13661412346	13911709735	13666074679
13818853316	13001346290	13588473747
13564347752	13389909043	13858112272
13003256940	13820985397	13952003232
13636305530	13388063699	13656008056
13817811724	13805329761	13060044767
13917654272	13957126882	13512500544
13818700409	13714290304	13390780995



UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador—Jackie Chan



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北京归创科技有限公司
北京英才房地产开发有限公司
成都深长城地产有限公司
德国莱茵TUV中国集团
得一高教育信息咨询(上海)有限公司

法派集团有限公司
国风艺术画廊
龙凤食品
美时代百货 (重庆) 有限公司
通用电气 (中国) 有限公司
南京新力传媒有限公司
赛诺菲安万特集团
三爱商事 (中国) 商业有限公司
上海大众汽车有限公司
上海马克华菲企业发展有限公司
上海少年日报
上海风和雅广告传媒有限公司
苏州市青田企业发展有限公司/上海泰义服饰有限公司

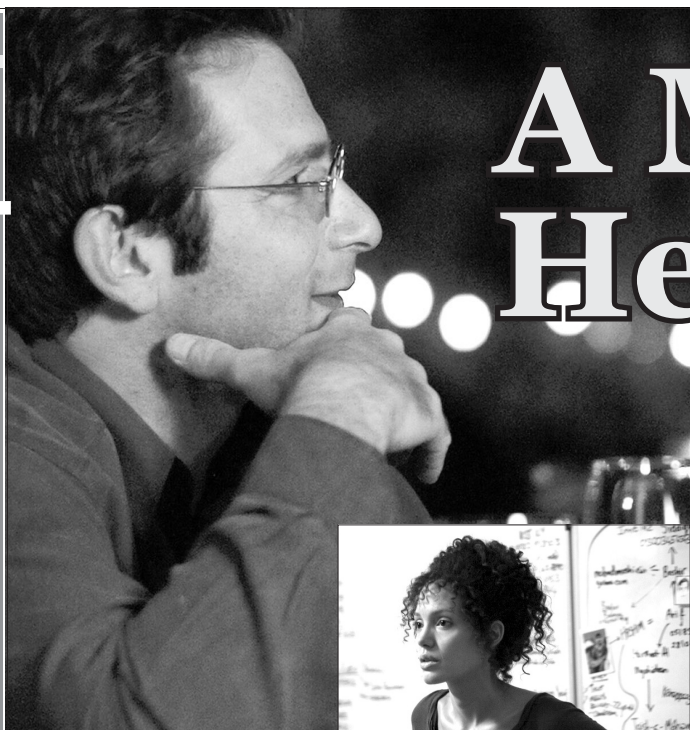
深圳企业家摄影学会
斯道拉恩索中国
嘉达星酒店与度假村国际集团
香港新世界百货
新世界中国地产
新力传媒
新欧宝化工 (上海) 有限公司
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浙江银泰百货有限公司



Special Offer: You can have your own greeting to be printed on your cards.

A Mighty Heart..

(2007)



Scene 1: Kaleem Yusuf's Office – Day

Caption: Kaleem Yusuf, Head of the Citizen – Police Liaison Committee

Danny: I came to ask your advice.

Kaleem: Fire away ⁽¹⁾.
Danny: I'm supposed to be meeting Sheikh Gilani today. I just wanted to know if it was safe.

Kaleem: Where are you meeting him?

Danny: The Village restaurant. You know it?

Kaleem: Of course.
(Danny's phone rings.)

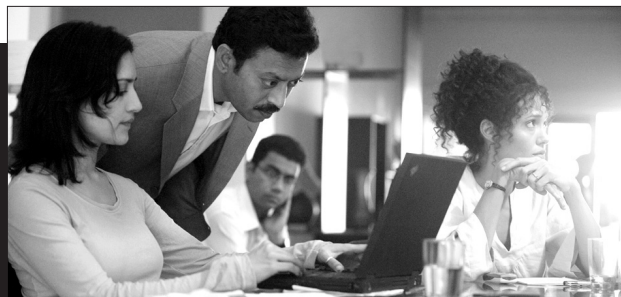
Danny: Hello?

(Danny listens to the person on the other end of the phone. He is serious, listening to instructions. It is someone connected to the Gilani meeting.)

Danny: I'll be there. Yes.
(Danny switches the phone off.)

Danny: Sorry.
Kaleem: No problem. Stay in a busy place and you should be fine. But be careful.

Danny: I will.
(Danny knows that he will probably have to leave the restaurant in order to meet Gilani.)



Scene 3: Living Room – Day

Mariane: Thank you for organizing this John.

Bussey: (to Mariane and Asra) No problem. An army marches on its stomach ⁽²⁾. I just wish you two would agree to move to the Sheraton with us.

Mariane: No way.

Bussey: For your own safety.

Levine: That's what he said to get me to change rooms and be on the same floor as him.

Bussey: Then when he found out you two were sharing a bed he wanted us to do the same. I had to put my foot down ⁽³⁾.

Vocabulary

1. fire away: to begin to speak or do something

2. offhand: careless or disrespectful in manner

3. wage against: to begin and continue (a war)

4. stringer: a part-time or freelance correspondent for the news media

5. An army marches on its stomach: This saying is attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte. To be effective, an

army relies on good and plentiful food.

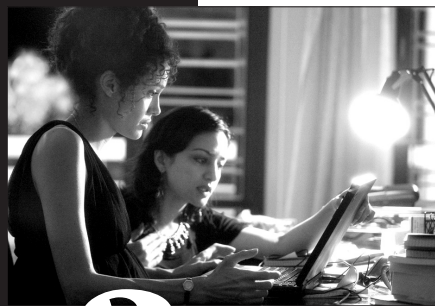
6. put one's foot down: to tell someone in a strong way that they must do something or that they must stop doing something

7. culpable: deserving of blame or censure as being wrong, evil, improper, or injurious

8. ISI: the Pakistan intelligence agency

Synopsis

The film is based on Mariane Pearl's memoirs detailing the terrifying and unforgettable story of her husband, Wall Street Journalist Danny Pearl. The story covers Danny's reasons for being in Karachi, Pakistan, the complete story of his abduction, the intense effort of his wife, Mariane Pearl made to find him during the weeks following his disappearance and eventual murder.



Scene 2: Asra's Office – Night

Mariane: It's strange. Danny said Bashir was pretty offhand ⁽⁴⁾. But here he's extra friendly.

Asra: Let's try Gilani.
(Mariane types into the search engine: Sheikh Gilani.)

Mariane: Gilani heads a group called the Jamaat Al-Fuqra ... most of his followers are in the US. They aim to purify Islam through violence ...

(We see quick flashes of articles about Al-Fuqra.)

Mariane: Ten unsolved assassinations. Seventeen fire-bombing cases between 1979 and 1990.

Asra: Shit.

Mariane: Suspected to have connections to terrorists who bombed the World Trade Center in 1993 ...

(See Boston Globe article)

Mariane: ... Has sent fighters to wage Jihad against ⁽⁵⁾ Indian rule in Kashmir, against Russians in Chechnya, Serbs in Bosnia and to fight Israelis.
(Mariane is stunned.)

Mariane: I didn't know Gilani was that serious. Why didn't he tell me?

Asra: He didn't want you to worry.

Scene 4: Asra's House – Day

Bussey: What else could we do? That computer was stuffed with information about al-quaeda. It had been used by Al Zawahiri-Osama Bin Laden's chief strategist. It gave information on the assassination of Ahmed Shah Massoud in Afghanistan. It had Richard Reid's itinerary on it. If we hadn't handed over the computer we would have been withholding information. If Reid's show had detonated and destroyed the plane we would have culpable ⁽⁶⁾.

Mariane: But where dose that leave your journalists?

Steve: Look-now's maybe not

the time for this debate. And the computer wasn't directly connected to Danny. Anything else?

(No-one says anything till Mariane, determined to keep her focus, continues.)

Mariane: According to Masud, he and Danny visited militant training camps in the Punjab just before coming to Karachi. These are supposed to have been closed by Musharraf. But they saw plenty of jihadists still training. These camps are connected to Jaish-e Moham-med-Omar's organization.

(Asra writes this on the chart.)

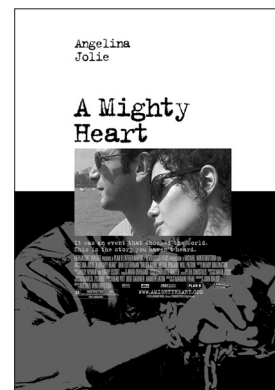
Steve: Two days before

Movie of the Week

By He Jianwei

Wall Street Journal reporter and South Asia Bureau Chief, Daniel Pearl was kidnapped and murdered, when he was investigating a story in Karachi, Pakistan, on shoe bomber, Richard Reid in early 2002. His beheading was documented on camera with horrific cruelty.

It is a tragedy, but the courage of his wife and the people around her supersedes the terrorism in this film.



Mariane: He always tells me everything. He never hides anything from me. Never.

Asra: Why did Danny want to meet Gilani?

Mariane: He was researching a story on Richard Reid-the shoe bomber.

(Mariane is hanging on Asra's every word, trying to guess what is being said as Asra speaks to the reporter in Urdu.)

Asra: He doesn't know anything about Danny. But another journalist is missing. Ghulam Hasnain, a stringer ⁽⁴⁾for Time Magazine.

Danny was kidnapped the US asked Pakistan to have over Omar Saeed Sheikh. Omar is supposed to have wired US \$100,000 to Mohammed Atta just prior to 9/11. There are rumors this money came from Lieutenant General Mahmood Ahmed. He was the head of the ISI ⁽⁸⁾.

Asra: Always follow the money.

Steve: On October 7 Musharraf dismissed the General. Was that because of his involvement in 9/11?

(The chart is becoming a labyrinth of possible connections.)

Steve: It's a good job I don't believe in conspiracy theories.

Photos by Liu Ying

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

I would “run circles around you”

By Jackie Zhang

Roger is my colleague and, being a boy from Inner Mongolia, he is tall and strong. Though he is not as handsome as David Beckham, he is still popular with the girls.

In reality, Roger is deeply in love only with his girlfriend, June, an exchange student from Scotland. They have been together now for three years. At first, the courtship ran smoothly and Roger never realized how much effort he exerted in pursuing her. He patiently waited for June to return the affection for almost one year.

“June was not interested in me at all at first,” Roger said. She came to Beijing during winter when he was a junior at university. He said June did not win his attention at first either, but soon they were good friends since Roger spoke good English and he liked to make friends.

“Gradually, I found that June was clever and lovely. She is not a classic beauty, but she knows a lot about Chinese literature and history. She is kind to everyone. About half a year after she had come to study at my university, I told her I liked her and wanted her to be my girlfriend. She refused me.”

I was surprised at her rejection because, I thought no girl could say “No” to Roger. “She turned me down because she loved a handsome guy,” Roger

said. “The boy was a math major. They met each other during an activity organized by the student union.”

Roger described the day when June told him about this boy. “She was excited while talking about him and I felt like she worshipped him. She usually attended math department classes and participated in the student union mainly because he was chairman. “June told me how he worked out difficult mathematical problems to the point where he could ‘run circles around her,’” Roger said and laughed.

“I didn’t know what she really meant and told her that I, too, had solved difficult math problems and ran circles around her,” Roger said. “I told her she was the only one that I cared about and she had been the center of my life. I was like the earth running circles around the sun,” June only smiled at Roger and said nothing.

Roger did not realize how amusing his misunderstanding of the expression, “run circles around me” was until June accepted his love and became his girlfriend. “She explained that she was just saying how good the boy was at math when she used the phrase, ‘run circles around me,’ but I misunderstood. Luckily, she did not mind my stupidity and agreed to be my girlfriend regardless,” Roger said.



Photo by Liu Ying

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



Reclaim this sign

By Derrick Sobodash

Beijing’s least correct translations seem to be adequately placed: on the garbage.

This recycling bin, labeled “May Reclaim,” is just inviting disaster. To reclaim something means to take it back, and this sign makes it sound like the recycle bin is somewhere you should be pulling stuff out of. If someone throws glass bottles in the bin – look out!

When a recycling plant picks up all the bottles and other goods to reuse, it could refer to the act as “reclaiming,” it doesn’t make much sense to label the bin this way.

In English, the shorter a public notice is, the better it is. While “Can Recycle” would be a direct, correct translation, simply labeling the bin as “Recyclable” would be perfectly understandable and clear.

Throw this sign in the next bin where it belongs: the garbage.



Weapon goes bad

By Tom Wolfe

Attention ladies and gentlemen, there is a weapon on display. What is a weapon you ask? Well, according to my dictionary, the word stands for Workshop Editor Appreciation Program.

Could this be true? There is an ancient program to teach people how to appreciate all the hard work editors such as myself do? I was rather disappointed then when my Chinese college dryly told me that, in fact, it should read “ancient weapon.” The accidental insertion of a space had gotten my hopes up.

A sad truth of the world is that there are a lot more weapons around than programs to teach people how to appreciate editors.

Still I take consolation that some people today still believe in the old maxim “The pen is mightier than the sword.”

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you’re planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. Through its open to public viewing

“Open” cannot be used as a noun. In this case, when it means the first performance of a theatrical piece, it should be “opening.” It means a formal beginning, performance, display or ceremony that formally

begins an undertaking and introduces it to the public, as in the first performance of a play. “The opening will be at 3 o’clock tomorrow afternoon.” Here it should be, “Through its opening to public viewing.”

2. One represents the past and the one the future.

noun form. “Open” can be easily transformed into a noun simply by tagging it with “ing.” The sentence now reads, “Through its opening to public viewing.” Bravo! Raise the curtain!

2. One represents the past and the one the future.

In this sentence, we’ve overdone the ones. There are

future.

If there are only two things being discussed, you have to use the “one ... and the other” formula. So, in this case, it should be, “One represents the past and the other the future.”

3. Ambassador of the

Embassy of Malta

Ambassador plenipotentiary is a representative of the highest rank sent by one government. So, when you refer to ambassadors, you have to say, the “ambassador of Malta,” instead of the “ambassador of the Embassy of Malta.”

3. Ambassador of the Embassy of Malta

In this case, you must give this representative from Malta his proper title. It’s never wise to slight a foreign dignitary. Plopping, “of the embassy,” in the middle of his or her title is the height of slight. Just say, “Ambassador of Malta” and our diplomatic ties will remain secure.

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. Through its open to public viewing

Using “open” as a noun is one grammatical door that should never be opened. When you wish to use this word in describing something that is being introduced to the public for its first viewing such as an art show or vintage car display, you need the word in

one too many here. If you are discussing two things, one one has to be dropped for the other ... literally. Replacing the second “one” in the above sentence with the word, “other,” gives you correct grammatical structure. The sentence now reads, “One represents the past and the other the future.”

Friday, January 18

5



Exhibition

Mobile Socialism – Contemporary Art Exhibition

The exhibition features artists from China, North Korea and Cuba.

Where: Huantie Time Art Museum, Dahuannei, Huantie, Jiuxianqiao Bei, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9 am – 5 pm, until January 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 6435 2113, 6435 2297

Zhang Guilin Solo Exhibition



Where: Art Daku, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 5:30 pm, until January 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 5130 5570

Wandering Heart



The exhibition, which is arranged by Gao Ling, features He Gong, He Hongpei, Liu Lanting, Li Xinjian, Qin Ming, Wang

Upcoming

The musical: *Cats*

Who: The Really Useful Group's International Touring of Andrew Lloyd Webber

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm, January 19-27

Admission: 80-1,680 yuan

Jing, Xu Zhongmin, Yang Qian.

Where: Triumph Art Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6:30 pm, until February 28

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9639

Movie

La Vérité Si Je Mens



Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Stage in February

Concert

FIYTA Ning Feng Solo Violin Concert

Ning Feng, the most recent winner of the Paganini International Violin Competition in Genoa, is holding a solo concert where he will combine Western and Chinese classical melodies on Valentine's Day.

Who: Ning Feng

Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

February 14

Tel: 5905 9082

Admission: 80-880 yuan

New Year Concert

Who: Symphony Orchestra of Russia

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

February 7

Admission: 50-1,000 yuan

Full House of Love

Who: China Drama and Dance Symphony Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm,

February 14

Admission: 80-999 yuan

Spring Festival Concert

Who: China Film Symphony Orchestra

Where: Beijing Music Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

February 10

Admission: 100-1,280 yuan

Dance

Sleeping Beauty

Who: Russian Ballet Troupe

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

February 7

Admission: 50-800 yuan

Nutcracker

Who: Russian Ballet Troupe

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

February 3

Admission: 50-1,000 yuan

Swan

Who: English National Ballet

Where: Century Theatre, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

January 30-February 3

Admission: 180-1,680 yuan

Notre-Dame de Paris

Who: Kremlin Palace Ballet Theater

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

February 12-14

Admission: 180-880 yuan

Drama

Red and Black

Who: Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

February 19-22

Admission: 100-1,280 yuan

(By Li Jing)

Saturday, January 19

Exhibition

Seeking Zhu Fadong

In this show, Zhu Fadong presents his latest mixed media works and works on paper.

Where: F2 Gallery, 319 Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Wed-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until February 16

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 8831

Masala – A Photographic Journey through Northern India

Young Australian photographer, Xian Warner, lends her passion for India, with its unpredictable blend of contradictions and cultural diversity, to this intimate photographic exhibition.

Where: Café Zarah, 42 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

When: 10 am – 11 pm, until

February 4

Admission: Free

Tel: 8403 9807

Poetic Realism – Zhang Siyong solo exhibition



Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 11 am – 6 pm, until January 21

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 4122,

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Movie

Fiction



Where: Beijing Cervantes Institution, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7 pm

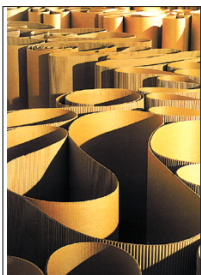
Admission: Free

Tel: 5879 9666

Sunday, January 20

Exhibition

Michelangelo Pistoletto Solo Exhibition



Where: Galleria Continua, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 6 pm, until March 24

Admission: Free

He Duolin Solo Exhibition



Where: Chinablue Gallery, 3/F, Building 7, Yigou Space, 16 A Baiziwan, Chaoyang

Tel: 6436 1005

When: 9:30 am – 5:30 pm, until February 18

Admission: Free

Tel: 8774 6332

The Borders of Utopia

The exhibition features Gu Dexin, Hu Liu, Lin Yilin, Liu Wei, Ma Yansong, Qin Ga, Wang Hui, Xin Yunpeng, Xu Zhongmin, Zhang Liyu.

Where: F/3 Beijing Today Art Museum, Building 3, 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 5 pm, until January 24

Admission: Free

Tel: 5876 9690

Movie

Chinese Cinema:

Yesterday and Today

A French view of the last thirty years of Chinese cinema, focusing on all the major developments since the Cultural Revolution. The film looks in detail at many issues and stages in the growth of one of the world's burgeoning film industries.

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627